First Nation Forestry Program

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Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

In partnership with First Nations

The purpose of the First Nation Forestry Program is to improve economic conditions in status Indian communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management.

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PROCEEDINGS

FIRST NATION FORESTRY PROGRAM

National Meeting
of
Provincial and Territorial Management Committees

March 21-25, 2000

Fredericton, New Brunswick

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Natural Resources Canada
Canadian Forest Service

In Partnership with First Nations

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

PREFACE

The National Provincial and Territorial Management Committee Meeting held in Fredericton, New Brunswick March 21 - 25, 2000, was the second of such meetings, the first being held one year earlier in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Fredericton meeting provided provincial and territorial management committee members with the opportunity to discuss and share First Nation Forestry Program (FNFP) experiences and successes, participate in a number of workshops varying from business plan development to traditional and medicinal uses of plants, and networking with colleagues from across the country. The meeting also provided the opportunity for First Nations to meet together in their own in-camera forum to discuss the FNFP as well as other topics related to regional and national Aboriginal forestry issues.

These proceedings provide summaries of the presentations made during the meeting. They have been prepared using notes and copies of presentations made available by the authors and should not be considered as a verbatim reporting of the meeting. They do, however, provide a useful record of the information that was presented and discussed by participants.

The success of the meeting was due to the efforts of many people. Members of the National Management Committee would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the New Brunswick Management Committee for hosting the meeting and developing the program agenda. Special thanks to Doreen Saulis, meeting coordinator, who took on the task of organizing the meeting and running the day to day logistics to ensure that meeting activities ran smoothly. Our thanks to meeting chairman, Tony Gabriel, St. Mary's First Nation, Fredericton, who did an excellent job in keeping the meeting moving along and on time. We would also like to express our thanks to all participants who travelled from across Canada to make this meeting a success.

Last, but not least, is our thanks to the cooperative efforts of Jean Paul Gladu and Janet Pronovost, National Aboriginal Forestry Association, and Claire Thie, Canadian Forest Service, for their time and effort in taking meeting notes and material available from presenters and speakers and turning it into this excellent set of proceedings.

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Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
NMC Member

Dr. Dan Welsh
Natural Resources Canada
NMC Member

Mr. Harry M. Bombay
National Aboriginal Forestry Association
First Nation NMC Member

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1. Opening Remarks: National Management Committee

First Nation Forestry Program Highlights
Dan Welsh, Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada

Good morning. I would first like to thank our hosts for welcoming us to Maliseet territory. It is indeed a pleasure. I am very happy to have the opportunity to talk about the program highlights. I have been asked to give an overview about the experiences, all of our experiences. I think it is important to look at all of our successes.

I wanted to remind all of us what we talked about when we set out the purpose of the program, and the purpose formally, is to improve economic conditions in status Indian communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management. I am going to talk about what we have done to try to achieve that. There are four objectives for the program, and they are important, because they gave us some specificity to what we wanted to do, and what you wanted to do, and also gave some focus when you were thinking about what directions it would go, and it gave some structure as to what could be funded under the program. The objectives were to enhance First Nation capacity to operate and operate in forest based businesses, to increase First Nation cooperation and partnership, to investigate mechanisms for financing First Nation forestry development; and finally, to enhance the capacity of First Nations to sustainably manage reserve forests.

I think its important to recognize the history of the program. It certainly has a strong link with the Indian Lands Program, previously. There was a strong focus on reserve forests. This program has quite a different focus, and there is a lot of flexibility. What I want to do this morning is to talk about highlights. I thought it might be best if we did this under three categories. Those three themes are: structure and delivery, project achievements, and sharing the experiences. Why those three themes? I think that structure and delivery of a program is basically invisible if it works. If we can't make any progress, then it becomes a disaster, an impediment. We're going to have to discuss over the next year to see if the structure worked or not. I have a sense that it has worked reasonably well because the PTMCs seemed to go about and do their business, and

the important thing has happened we have had project achievements. The reason to having structure and delivery is so that we can get something done. The third category, sharing the experiences is something that we have tried to stress. We have always admitted privately that this was not a terribly rich program, but that people were doing things under some areas, that were really of interest to other people across the country. Sharing experiences was going to be important, and telling people who were not part of the program was also important.

Structure and Delivery: We had two structures to work with. The National Management Committee, and the Provincial and Territorial Management Committees are both composed of a CFS representative, INAC and First Nation representatives. At the national level our responsibility is just to provide some broad direction to generally cast the shape of the program. We were all nervous to tell people at the regional level what they should be doing. We allocated funds to the provinces and territories and let them make a lot of the decisions. We did manage some central program activities. We encourage meetings like this, we created annual reports, we did Ministerial briefings, as well as a variety of communication products. Beyond this, we basically left things to the provincial and territorial management committees. The composition was basically the same in the core group, because this was one of the rules. The committees also had the opportunity to invite provincial and industry representatives, and quite a few of you have veiled yourself to that. The responsibilities that were given to you were to establish strategic directions for provinces and territories. When we think about systems that work, I think one of the reasons that we have had some considerable success. That reason is that we let you make a lot of the decisions. I think we recognize that things are very different in British Columbia and Manitoba and New Brunswick. That you could not possibly get close enough to things from far away, so the right way to do this was to determine the real details of how to do things at the local level. The PTMCs called for

proposals, reviewed and then approved them. So the projects were approved by representatives in each province. That also gave you the chance to explore opportunities for additional funds. You organized workshops, conferences and other activities which leads to my third theme of communication.

Strengths of Program Design: This is something we all need to think about. If we are going to solve some of our big challenges, we need to find ways of working together. Therefore, structures that work are important to us. Firstly, this is a national program and last year's annual report identifies all project locations across the country, and yet it is a local program, it has people involved. From the FNFP standpoint, this is a Canadian program, but it has a structure that allows each of these projects to be closely linked to national interests through regional committees so that we have great national coverage without people losing their identity. Back to the program strengths, the program recognizes and addresses our regional diversity, and the decision making takes place at the provincial and territorial management committees by people who know what they are doing. One of the most remarkable parts of this program is that it is a partnership program that promotes new liaisons. In some ways it forced people to sit down together to get to know each other, but the consequence is getting to know each other, is that you have done a lot of things together. It has allowed people to focus on forest-based economic development. There often appears to be a lot of resources around, but they're not specific to forestry, and forestry is long-term. This program has allowed you to focus on some of the forestry issues that you wanted to focus on. It allows First Nations to make decisions about their communities. We have a lot of general economic development funds that have been directed into forestry programs, because of leveraging. This last point is very important. We have tried to keep everything open and transparent. If you wanted to know where the dollars were, or who got them its all there.

Five-year funding profile: It is a fancy way of saying, "what did we spend". The thing that is interesting is that the dollars decrease gradually from year to year. We have done that, government has spent less. But there was a vision that First Nations and partners would spend more, which was a slight miscalculation, because other partners started to spend a lot of money, lot of effort, right away. This has been characteristic of the program, straight through. For example, in the first year, people thought there might be 1.7 million coming in (Table 1), instead there was 6 million dollars spent and so on. The patterns were not uniform across the country. There are differences with the groups because there were different opportunities, some were able to generate a lot of external money, while others did not have the same success. We should not view this as necessarily bad or good, but I think we want to have partnerships that everybody is participating in, then it is important to look at that and try to understand what is happening, get a better feel of how to go to where we want to get to.

There are a number of different ways to run a program. We could have a system where there are a number of people in a room in Ottawa reviewing proposals and handing out cheques, or we could just hand out money and let them decide what to do with the money themselves. I suspect all of that partnership and a lot of the good things would not have happened. So we may have found a middle of the road that works, but I am sure that we can fix it up a little bit, I am sure that we can do better, so lets think structure.

Project Achievements: The numbers are always interesting. There were 1,218 project proposals over the past four-years, and over 800 were approved. People thought that they would like to spend 130 million dollars, and in fact with partner dollars we spent 53 million dollars. So for a small program, it has had a lot of activity. 40,000 person weeks of employment, and a lot of business plans and management plans were prepared.

Looking at accomplishments quickly under the objectives. **Objective One:** This is where most of the proposals came from. The type of things that were included in there were Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and training activities, developing plans for forest-based businesses, feasibility studies, specific training programs, log home building training courses, and business expansion opportunities. Many opportunities to help bring some capacity, and long-term employment.

Objective Two: We calculated about nine million dollars on developing forest sector strategies,

learning how to manage sawmills, joint venture partnerships, and certainly if we can learn about joint ventures such as we heard about in regards to Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. This is probably not a bad idea for spending time and effort on learning how to do those types of things. A lot of effort has been put into community consultation, and joint management agreements. I think its interesting that some of the successes that we heard about yesterday are caught up in these themes. The idea that we are going to solve a lot of these resource related discussions and questions by working together. One way or another, people are starting to get to know one another and exploring various partnerships.

Eel Ground, has been doing a composite of things with reserve land forest management, such as looking at new value-added products and approaches, working with a small mobile sawmill, and looking at ways for contracting services out.

There has been a lot of work done in the Northwest Territories in relation to wildfire work.

Table 1. FNFP Funding Profile

Five-year Funding Profile ($millions)					
	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
FNFP					
Planned	5.9	5.5	5	4.5	4
Actual	5.75	5.53	5	4.5**	–
Additional	–	–	–	0.50*	–
Other Sources					
Planned	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8
Actual	6.1	11.96	9.75	8.00**	–

* Additional funds received under Gathering Strength
** Estimated

Objective Three: This was a small item and was not a major focus by any means. There were some very important initial studies. For example the National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA) report on *Funding Mechanisms for First Nation Forest-Based Economic Development*, was interesting for a number of people. There were some other small reports such as, Treaty 3. They did a small report on sustainable forestry. Basically, this was a small item, but one that we wanted to spend a little bit of effort on initially.

Objective Four: *Forest reserve management capacity.* We spent 12 million dollars on developing forest management plans, managing management plans that already existed, and there were quite a few of reserves that developed management plans before this program. There was quite a bit of silviculture work, inventories, as well as fire suppression training.

A few projects: First of all I would like to mention the Berens River First Nation project in northern Manitoba. They had an opportunity to build a main lodge. To date, they have built some cabins to go with it, and they have created immediate and long-term employment opportunities through that activity.

I have had a lot of discussions last week with the folks from the Yukon in Ottawa. Certainly this is an area of great interest to them.

In 1998/99, Alexander, Beaver Lake, Driftpile, Fort McMurray, Paul and Sunfield First Nations received funding to train band managers as level II wildland fire fighters. The economic development there has been quite good, because it provides long-term and continuing summer employment.

The last example I want to draw to your attention, and there has been quite a number of these

types of activities across the country, in this case Nooaitch First Nation in British Columbia. They developed Eagles Nest Log Industries, and have gotten into custom manufacturing of hand crafted logs and timber structures. We can't all claim logs like those, but we can claim the opportunity to develop these types of activities, and certainly with the booming interest in using wood and seeing wood in recreational homes. There is a huge market there, and the last count I had, there was quite a lot of projects that have looked at these types of activities, looked at training, looked at buying this type of equipment, and there has been great progress in log structures.

My third highlight was the idea of sharing the experiences. How do we talk to each other? What really works? Do we use computers, or do we use meetings? Do we put them in publications? How should we write them? How do we do all of these things so that it will work? I think its one of our challenges. What we are looking at here is a montage of the variety of approaches that have been taken.

I want to summarize the communication tools. We have had national newsletters, regional newsletters, and a web site (The FNFP national web site has had 1.3 million people who have had a look at it since 1997). Many people have expressed to me that they have looked at the site, and were able to find out what we are doing. There have been numerous publications such as, annual reports, traditional knowledge reports, forest business planning guides, and publications that summarize our meetings.

Another thing that has worked really well is that there has been a whole range of workshops and conferences that have been mostly organized by the PTMCs. We had the Aboriginal business partnerships meeting in Saskatoon a couple years ago. The FNFP development workshops, a conference on *Ideas Worth Sharing* in Ste. Foy, and an Aboriginal entrepreneur meeting in Edmonton. There have been a lot of ideas come out of these workshops. Basically we have had highlights in all areas, we had a structure that worked well, that allowed us to fund a lot of projects, and allowed us to get a lot of partners in there to get a lot more dollars that we would not have seen otherwise. I am looking forward to hearing from the individual PTMCs and learn about what they are doing. I will leave it there, and hope I have left you with some highlights to think about. Thank you very much.

First Nation Challenges
Harry Bombay,
First Nation NMC Representative

Good morning everybody. I am the Executive Director of the National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA), and the First Nation representative on the National Management Committee. I would like to thank the Mi'Kmaq Maliseet people of the Maritime Atlantic Region, particularly St. Mary's First Nation, elder Margaret Paul, and the drummers from St. Mary's. A big Meegwetch to you.

I have been asked to talk about the challenges ahead for First Nations and Aboriginal peoples in the forest sector, and as a member of the National Management Committee, and as the Executive Director of NAFA, we have been one of the few organizations who were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to monitor and look at the big picture, of what is occurring in the forest sector across the country and the various ways things are happening and changing. Not everything is the same or balanced out there. We are not all progressing at the same rate. Looking at the challenges, I look at these from the point of view of what are the major issues we have to deal with. Some of the major issues are: Rights, forest policy and the management of natural resources across the country are probably the biggest issues. So what does this mean? **Recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty rights**, how do they play out in terms of forest policy? How do we take the rights issue, and make them an integral feature of forest management policy throughout the country? There are some key documents that are leading us in this direction right now. The whole concept of sustainable forest management, the courts, Delgamuukw, Sparrow, and Halfway River. We have had numerous court cases which have said, if you are going to do forestry, you are going to have to deal with Aboriginal issues. The onus then is on the forest sector in terms of how we deal with those rights. How we make them an element of sustainable forest management if it is in the traditional territory of a First Nation. The **National Forestry Strategy** provides some guidance in this respect. We have seen yesterday how Saskatchewan is approaching the policy process in forestry in the province of Saskatchewan. If you can deal with the policy issues you can move the agenda along. Other key issues that we have to deal with are **forest**

products certification/forest management systems certification, under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Canadian Standards Association. The manner in which the market reacts to the marketing of forest products is a means by which First Nations and Aboriginal peoples can have their issues raised as a market issue, when forest products are being sold and marketed throughout the world. How we organize to address the issue is a major challenge for First Nations across the country. We have to come together on those kinds of issues, no First Nation can do it alone, and we should not be doing it in isolation. We should be talking with each other and forming the right kinds of structures and organization so that we can address them collectively.

Our next issue is **participation in management and decision-making processes**. The best some provinces can do is to say that we are going to consult, but we have to take it much further. It has to be about joint decision-making; it has to be an exercise of First Nation jurisdiction when it pertains to certain areas where there is agreement. Where it will occur, and how it will occur. In some cases as you have seen throughout the country, First Nations are taking the first step in exercising what they consider to be their jurisdiction, and of course, we are in the courts all over the country again. To push the envelope, we have had to take that type of approach, and we have to be supportive of one another in that regard. When it comes down to what forest management is, its about managing the forest for our values, and ensuring that the management meets our needs, as well as those of others. How we reflect our values in forest management is also critical. Access not only to timber harvesting, but we have to look at ways in which **forest tenure systems** are used, we have to be strong in terms of policy process, we have to be organized in terms of our representation to ensure the manner in which forest resources are allocated, and that it includes our requirements and needs. So forest tenure and access to resources is important.

A new thing on the horizon is **Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)**, and the phenomenal growth in this industry. This type of activity across the country is really getting to the crux of some of the values we hold in terms of how we gather, how we process and how we manage our activities in the forest. Tenure issues around the country do not address this issue right now, and there is no NTFP forest policy out there right now. We have to perhaps lead the discussion on that issue. Companies that 3-4 years ago were marketing 2 million dollars in sales are now managing sales of 60-80 million dollars per year. We have First Nations in parts of the country that are active in this area and are beginning to capitalize. The harvesting of materials for NTFP's is causing an impact on First Nations and how we relate to the forest.

Other major issues is the application of **traditional forest-related knowledge** to sustainable forest management. Traditional knowledge is of course strongly linked to the issue of NTFPs. It is that knowledge that can be used in the production of the NTFPs. Some of the First Nations are looking at setting up different types of plants that will process and extract key elements from plants such as seneca root. This type of information is based on the knowledge systems of First Nations. How we manage that, and how that relates to sustainability in the forest are issues that we have to address.

Access to lands for traditional activities are not reflected in tenures systems - they will either limit our access to those traditional activities or facilitate our access. It brings into play such matters as **intellectual property rights.** The World Intellectual Property Rights Office in Switzerland is conducting major work on intellectual property rights. Aboriginal people are having some form of input. There was a workshop a couple of weeks ago at the University of British Columbia on this highly sensitive issue. Currently there are very few examples of policy around the world which deal with property rights that are held collectively by a community. The key issues in intellectual property rights are: promotion, use of language, and teaching of traditional activities. So how do we protect it, how do we manage our traditional knowledge systems and how do we connect them with intellectual property rights?

A major issue, of course, is **business development** and the sharing of benefits within the traditional industry (the forest industry) as we know it. How do we gain more benefit from it? Saskatchewan has been used a lot to demonstrate how it can be done. Saskatchewan First Nations are willing to share with other parts

of the country, their experience and how they have gone about things, and to some extent, have used NAFA as a vehicle to do that. In that context, there are a number of issues linked to how we relate within the industry, and how we become part of the whole scenario.

For example, international **market access** is a fundamental issue. It is key to those who produce forest products. As I mentioned yesterday, we have 40 sawmills and re-manufacturing facilities across the country right now. Market access is a very large issue for them. The **softwood lumber agreement** is limiting their access to the Unites States softwood market. Some of these companies are only operating at 40 - 50% capacity, because of the lack of access to the markets. The reason we don't have access to the Unites States market is because of the softwood lumber agreement. Industry a few years ago would never have thought that Aboriginal peoples would have a concern about that. We have to find ways to address trade issues and find some commonality amongst the 40 companies that currently exist. Our issues have to be addressed through special provisions in **trade agreements**. We are doing some of that work now, under the First Nations Summit in British Columbia. We have a First Nations Forest Products Trade Task Force on softwood lumber, and we've looked at the options. We've discussed and met with key people in the Canadian embassy in Washington. We've presented our case to them, and within a year, when the softwood lumber agreement expires, we are going to have a new era, and we are going to have something in place to facilitate our continued growth in this sector through our own marketing of forest products.

Another key element of international trade is **Indigenous to Indigenous trade**. We have to look at ways in which First Nations in Saskatchewan can work with First Nations in Ontario. How can we address some of our common goals? Can we create marketing structures where we can work to together to supply housing needs of one community through marketing of products produced by one First Nation, and have other First Nations buy those products? How can we work together and further our own business interests? Not only does it apply in Canada, but it applies North and South of the international border of the United States. How do we work with tribes in the Unites States? Can we develop our own trade agreements with them, and can we use forest products as a key way of facilitating that trade? Can we take it to a much broader field than that? There are Indigenous people throughout the world who can benefit inter-indigenous trade, and increased relationship development amongst one another.

And because of all that, we have a need to be intimately familiar with what is going on in the forest sector. Industry is active in all kinds of areas. There is **research** going on in **science and technology,** in forest management practices, discussions on **intensive forest management** creating a new approach in meeting the market demand for more fibre. So, how do we as First Nations play this all out? Do we want to see a healthy forest industry? Are we at the point where we can say that a healthy forest industry is good for First Nations? Or do we want to say that the forest industry should stop operations at this point, and deal with our rights and issues. First Nations across this country right now would have different answers about these kinds of things. I am sure that those operating mills say "we want a healthy forest industry" and those who have not had respect from the type of forest policy that is out there would say "shut it down until we can get our issues on the table". So, we have all kinds of perspectives on things for different reasons. We have to monitor those things and have to come together in terms of collectively addressing those issues.

Gaining benefits from the forest sector means **access to capital**. You can gain access to land, resources, but if you do not have the money to invest in that land and to process forest products, then you can not create employment. There is a double edged sword that we have to address here. The access to resources on one hand, and the access for capital for investment on the other. That is a major issue.

The final issue I want to address is **capacity building** and what that means. It doesn't mean simply training people to run a chainsaw or plant a tree or run a certain piece of equipment. In my opinion, it is about **institutional development**, how we organize ourselves. It is about creating the skills within the people. It is about creating **awareness at the community level** and getting people involved. It is about linking our objectives and values with respect to the forest, consistent

with some of the **governance** issues that are occurring and some of the structures that are being created in First Nations communities to manage other programs, and how forestry activity can be consistent with that. That is a challenge as well. We know that First Nations are working on all these issues. Some in the forest sector are moving pretty slowly, some not at all. As a group of people who are focused on one issue here, we can come together and talk more about how our participation in the forest sector can lead to discussion in such a way that it will provide a model for other sectors or for other areas or activity that Aboriginal people have to address. Capacity building is key, as it has been recognized in the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples report and the National Forest Strategy. Everybody knows it is needed, but as I pointed out yesterday, we only have 20 Aboriginal foresters in the country and there is a dire need for more professional development. We have to address this collectively as well by encouraging students to go to school, by increasing awareness within communities. We hope, at NAFA, to be able to lead some of that by developing promotional materials for professional development which will indicate how First Nations people can get into training, what sort of path they might want to follow, the role of Elders, the role of our traditional knowledge, and so on.

What I have tried to do is summarize some of the key issues and from that, identify the challenges. There are a lot of them and they will play out differently throughout the country. An issue may be more important in one part of the country or addressed in a certain way in another, while industry is more important there and addressed in a different way there. These kinds of workshops are part of sharing of knowledge on how things are progressing. NAFA plays that role too, through some of our publications. We are moving forward. I think the challenges will become greater in certain areas and less in others as we progress. Let's keep up the fight. Thank you.

First Nation Considerations
Dan Murphy
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Good morning. Before I get into my presentation, I would like to say thank you to the First Nations in New Brunswick for having us here this week. In particular, I would like to say what a moving opening ceremony we had this morning. I am fortunate that I get to participate in many opening ceremonies across the country with First Nations. Not only was the prayer by the Elder this morning moving but the drumming was supreme. Thank you.

I am on the agenda for something called "Future Considerations". Lets not kid ourselves, we are talking about the future of the First Nation Forestry Program (FNFP). I am going to share with you the steps, as we in government understand it, that we will have to go through to look for the future of the FNFP. I am going to leave with you, some ideas of how you can help us succeed in that endeavor.

The first thing we had to do was sit down and look at the program and say: Is there a case here for renewal or not? Is it a program that has succeeded? Is it a program that has done its thing and we can now move on? Or is there still work left to be done? There was an evaluation done on the program in 1998, I believe, and it was an independent audit done outside of the government departments. It was a positive audit, as you all know. It pointed out many successes in the program, and the key thing that it did point out was that the business is not yet done. It has been a success but there is still more to be done. It is a good starting point to have this independent evaluation that indicates that the program is succeeding, heading in the right direction, but there is still work to be done.

One of the other indicators that we have looked at in consideration of the future of the program is the demand. Clearly there is more demand out there than the program can presently meet from a financial point of view. There are more First Nation applications for funding than there is money. Now, that is a mixed blessing. It is, of course, disappointing to the First Nations that may not get the money they want and need. But it is an indication that there is still need out there, that there is still work to be done. In a way, this is a positive thing that there is still a demand and there are still good things to be done. One of the big successes of this program, that we in government like to push the numbers around, is the idea of leverage. This program has been a big success in the sense that: For the number of dollars that have gone into it from the program itself, over twice as many dollars have been generated from other sources. That is an important consideration. I personally think that,

more important than the money, are the connections that have been made. I think there has been an intellectual leveraging that has been going on here that is far more valuable than the money on an annual basis. The powerful message that we heard yesterday from the Peter Ballantyne First Nation and their partners, in the province of Saskatchewan is a clear indication of how this program has contributed to a leveraging of money but more importantly, it is contributing to the leveraging of ideas and mutual goals, objectives, and mutual success. Although this is more difficult to measure, I believe it is one of the biggest benefits of this program. The fact that First Nations, governments and private enterprise are working together and developing the forest resources together on the basis of everybody's needs. That is a very powerful message and this program has helped contribute to that situation, I am sure.

Governments are always looking for economic impacts when they spend money. I suppose they are trying to measure the success in economic terms. There has been 776 projects in over 300 communities across the country since this program started. It is truly a national program, as the map indicates. Over 1,370 people have had employment as a result of the program. Unfortunately, it has not always resulted in full-time employment, but job experience and employment (even if it is seasonal) it helps build capacity and the desire for something more and something better. There have been 32 workshops and conferences held across the country. I am relatively new to the program, as I became involved a year ago, and I have had an opportunity to participate in some of the conferences and workshops. They have all been very powerful and useful situations, where there has been exchanges of ideas. I know that people have gone home, fired up with new ideas that they can try. There have been 45 First Nation forest management plans that reflect the goals, objectives, ideals and philosophies of the First Nations who made them. What I think is also happening is that these goals and ideals are being spread into the industry and the governments. I think First Nation's intellectual impact has been magnified, in part, because of this program. Good sustainable forest management is very close to the traditional views of First Nations and how resources should be looked after and harvested and managed. There have been 99 business plans. Every business plan is a learning experience. At times a bad experience, or a frustrating experience, but it is still a learning experience. Last night I was speaking to an older gentleman from Manitoba. He talked about when he was a young fellow in school and how they made him write essays, and how he really didn't enjoy writing those essays. He did not find it to be a good experience, but he says that now, as an elder, how handy the experience was to help him prepare plans and proposals to get money from the government. I think it is interesting that this experience that happened 40-50 years ago has served him into the future, even though it was not a good experience to start with. Bad experiences are still learning experiences. We should not be upset when an experience is not as good as we hoped. There have been 19 feasibility studies. Again, at times a frustrating process, but a learning process and the more you do it, the better you get at it and the better you can express the goals and objectives of your First Nation.

Another big plus of this program, which I have already mentioned, is partnership. There is the partnership between two departments in the federal government, and you would think it would be obvious that the two departments get together. Unfortunately, it doesn't happen very often, and even when it does happen, it does not always succeed. Fortunately, these departments have been able to work together over the years to provide opportunities to First Nations. There is also the partnership between First Nations and the two departments, where the First Nations work together to deliver the program. One of the real strengths of the program is the role of the leadership that the PTMCs have assumed in the delivery. That has been a major part of the success in my opinion. The partnership has expanded beyond the government and the First Nations. It has included the provincial and territorial governments and industry. It was a powerful message from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, basically saying: "We as a First Nation are ready to do business, and we are confident enough that we can get our interests addressed, that we are going to go out and do business in order to make a future for our First Nation". They are in a particularly good situation because of their Treaty Land Entitlement, but other First Nations have the same opportunities and take the leadership and make those bridges. It will not always work, but it will work often enough that it is worth the effort.

When you look at the history of the program, there is no doubt in my mind that there is a case for renewal. That is the premiss that Dan and Harry and I and our departments are moving on, that there is a case for renewal here. That the program is a success, but it is not over yet. There is more to be done and there are more First Nations out there who can benefit from the kinds of things that this program can do. The process for renewal is bureaucratic, frustrating, and complicated. I wish we could just tell parliament that this program is great and we would like it to keep going. However, it is not that simple. Both departments have to decide independently, at the bureaucratic level, that the program is a good one and it should continue. At the bureaucratic level, DIAND has to give its approval in principle, and so does NRCan. Once the bureaucrats have done that, then we would brief the Ministers, and the Ministers in turn, will have to decide that, in principle, this program should proceed. Once the two Ministers have decided that this program should proceed, they will notify Treasury Board. Treasury Board are those with the authority. Even if Ministers have decided that something should happen, they still must get the money from Treasury Board. As part of renewal, we need to look at the program objectives that we have at present and determine whether they should be refined in some manner. That would be largely up to you people to advise us on how you would see refinement to the program objectives, or the design or implementation or the delivery of the program that you feel would make it better and more useful to your First Nations.

We have to get funding beyond the 2001-2002 allocation. We have to get funding for the years that follow. DIAND and NRCan have to come up with some money. Ideally, if we can convince everybody, we will go to Treasury Board and places like that and hopefully come up with more money. There is no guarantee in any of this because, as we are out there looking for money, there are all kinds of other good programs also looking for money. Given some of the publicity that has covered funding programs in the last few months, the government is going to look pretty closely at programs, at what they intend to do and how they intend to do it. We would then need to get Treasury Board's authority to spend the money. First we have to decide what we want to do it, then we have to identify where the money comes from, and then we get the authority to actually spend the money. We get budgets that stretch out for four or five years. Then of course the Minister will make the announcements and we are off to the races. There is a lot of work to be done before we get to the final stages.

The current status is that, at the bureaucratic level, both departments are comfortable with this program. The Ministers will be making their views known in the very near future and advising Treasury Board about what they want to do. Obviously, I can not speak on their behalf but I can tell you that, at the bureaucratic level we are very supportive of this program. I can also say that, one of the things that will help us, and will help you, and some of you have already taken the initiative, some PTMCs, some First Nations, have written to the two Ministers and said: "Yes, the First Nation Forestry Program is a good program and we would like to see it continue." So, those of you who feel that way, let your views be known. If you think this is a successful program, let your views be known. At the bureaucratic level, there is no doubt that there is support for an extension for the program. We are behind it and we think there is more work to be done yet. As I have indicated, there are several steps we have to go through. We could get cut off at the pass at any one of them. That does not mean we won't try because I think that there is reason for optimism. This program can demonstrate enough success and need that we stand a good chance of seeing an extension.

The process for extension and selling the program largely starts right here, today and tomorrow. In particular, I am thinking of the in-camera session that the First Nation delegates will be having tomorrow. What I am hoping is that, during that session, you will put your minds to the future of this program, and then when we have a wrap up, and you speak with us, that you will be in a position to share some ideas with us for how and why this program should be extended, and refined to be a better program. Also, as part of the renewal process, the National Management Committee is prepared as much as possible, or when ever possible, to come and meet with PTMCs during the next few months. If you are having meetings on various things, if it is possible, we would like to meet with you and have you present your views to us on how the program could be improved and the rational for extending it, if that is what you believe. I can't guarantee that we can be every where at the same time. We are extremely busy like everyone,

but we will make an effort to sit down with PTMCs and hear your case. We will do our best to make your case in the renewal process.

Some of the questions that you may want to ask yourselves tomorrow, tonight: "is the focus on capacity still a valid focus?" The program has focused a lot on capacity. Government of Canada seems to be totally infatuated with capacity. I hear it every where I go. Some days I am not certain what it means, but you people know what capacity means in the context of forestry. Is that a focus that we should continue? Ask yourselves that question. Is the program doing what it should be doing, from your point of view? Is the delivery working? Is the money getting where it can do the most good? Are there other things that the program could be doing? If the program shouldn't be focused on, or is there too much focus on capacity, should there focuses on something else? Are there other needs out there that you have identified based on the experience of the program? By all means, if there are other areas that the program should or could focus on, share it with us so that we can make that case.

Funding is always a tough one. Sometimes you think there is never ever enough money. Sometimes there could be too much money. One of the advantages of this program is that it has caused First Nations to scramble, to get out there and hustle. I think it has been a good experience. I think that we would like to see more funding, but we really don't know how much more funding. We would need some rational, an argument for more funding. If you have arguments or ideas and data that would help support certain funding levels, share them with us. If there are ways that you can indicate that certain funding levels would be beneficial, let us know. We would also need the rational behind it. We can't just ask for $15 million. We will have to demonstrate why a certain figure would be beneficial to the program and First Nations that participate in it.

Another thing that the Government is always interested in, is assessing whether or not the objectives of a program have been met. We have attempted to do that and I think that Jack Smyth and Peter Wyse, who work with me, have done a really good job with generating data over the years. That data will help us a lot in making the case for renewal. But if you have other ways or suggestions of data that you think should be collected, data that would help demonstrate that the program is a success or there is a need in certain areas, please share those ideas with us.

Another important area is how to make certain we get the biggest bang for the buck with the money that we do get. How can we ensure that the expenditures are spent wisely and for maximum benefit. You in the PTMCs are the ones who make those decisions. We are therefore totally relying on you to advise us on ways to do things that would be helpful across the country. For instance, if a PTMC has come up with a particular best practice in managing their money that others could use, share it with us here. Share it with the other PTMCs. It is important that we get good value for the money that we go and fight for.

One of the big questions, of course, is how to divide the pot once we do get it. How do we decide which regions get what sums of money. We want a fair and reasonable criteria to guide the National Management Committee dividing the pot up between the regions. That is always a tough one because everyone wants as much as they can get. But it will work to everyone's benefit if the PTMCs, in their deliberations tomorrow, talk about that objectively and seriously. What is a fair and good way of dividing the money we do get so that regions can develop and go ahead? Are there ways that the program delivery can be done better at the regional level by the PTMCs? Are there economies of scale? Are there ways of doing things so that less money is spent on meetings and more money gets spent by the First Nations in the forest? What other partnerships are out there? You have been extremely successful in making partnerships with other governments, other departments and private enterprise. But are there other opportunities in partnering with educational institutions. I think there are some opportunities, particularly at the community college level for programs such as this to get some partners for capacity. Community colleges are in a very competitive situation these days. They are looking for students and looking to develop programs that will attract students. I think there are opportunities there to get some capacity options that meet your needs. I would encourage you to look at those opportunities. I think they exist. It is a matter of reaching out. Seek other sources of funding and other government programs. I confess that I should know more about these other programs. I know there are

other pots of money out there that could be used in a complimentary fashion with this program. We need to do more work on that. I see that in other aspects of my job as Director. There are other departments out there who have pots of money that we are not tapping into well enough. I think we should also look at those.

So that is my message. It is a forward looking message and I hope it is positive. I really urge you over the remainder of our meeting here, to take the opportunity, either formally or informally, to share your ideas with each other. Share your ideas with us. When you are back home and your PTMCs are meeting, take some time to focus on the future of this program. The National Management Committee would like to come and hear your ideas at the PTMC level. Ideally, if you could give us something in writing, because we are all getting to be the old guys here and we don't remember as well as we used to. Something in writing would help us. Nothing fancy, but something we can bring back and build on. Something that we can honestly say the First Nations have told us that this is what is needed. First Nations have told us that this new way of conducting business will be helpful. To a large extent, the future is in our hands right here. These people in the room today. Your ideas and thoughts and experiences are what we are going to have to rely on to make the case to keep this thing going. I personally believe, as does Harry and the other Dan, that this is a good program that deserves extension and renewal. I guess I mean a renewal in the full sense of the word, not just a renewal in the sense that it is going to continue. But a renewal in the sense that, if there are refinements, we can make to it better. If there are renewals in the philosophy, in the delivery and the objectives, we would like to look at those with you. But it will be largely up to you to generate these ideas based on your experience. So, it is a challenge, but, given the history of this program, I am quite confident that the challenge can be met, and it will be met. We will be in the position to make a strong case for the renewal of the First Nation Forestry Program. Thank you.

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2. A Nation Leading the Way

Steve Ginnish, Eel Ground First Nation

Introduction: Since 1989, Eel Ground First Nation in conjunction with the ever changing Federal Native Lands Forest Management Programs and provincial job creation programs put in place silviculture practices on forest land holding in Eel Ground. Formal training opportunities were created through Canada Employment centres and the First Nations Human Resource Training Initiatives which resulted in Native crews acquiring professionally certification in forestry management. These trained silviculture crews are not able to bid on jobs off the reserve or be hired on with other contractors. With the successes enjoyed with the rehabilitation of Eel Ground Lands the silviculture training and subsequent opportunities for long-term employment has been accomplished both on and off the First Nation Lands, thus enhancing the quality of life and standard of living for Native families in First Nations. By the end of this year, more than 65% (9% of total Band membership) individuals from Eel Ground have completed at least one training program, and more than one-third of those took part in additional specialized upgrading sessions as the program progressed. This training has dramatically increased direct employment opportunities in all forestry sectors. Since the early days of training, supervision played a major part and has been performed solely by Eel Ground band members. A forest development officer and two on-site supervisors manage the crews at Eel Ground. One of these supervisors has received his Forest Technician Certificate from the Maritime Forest Ranger School in Fredericton in 1996 with the other graduating from a forest management upgrading course at the Community college in Miramichi. Others have completed the Aboriginal Forest Ranger training course offered by Progressive Planning with one furthering his education and recently graduated from Maritime Forest Ranger School. It has been noted that people in the industry have been very willing to give Natives a chance once the necessary skills are in place. As skills improve, employment opportunities have been increased, which has resulted in more self-sufficiency and less dependence on government subsidies from Employment Insurance (formerly Unemployment Insurance) and Social assistance.

History: During the time between 1989 and 1994, Native Lands Forest Management program expended roughly $800,000 over five years for forest management on all First Nation lands in the province of New Brunswick under the Canada/New Brunswick COOPERATION Agreement on Forest Development. Delivered through the Canadian Forest Service to Natural Resources Canada, this funding was utilized for the development and updating of forest management plans. Silviculture treatments such as reforestation, pre and semi-commercial thinning, release cutting and residual removal and the road construction necessary to provide access for silviculture activities on the 16,000 hectares of reserve land were also carried out. All but one of the 15 First Nations in the province already had a forest development plan in place. However, prior to 1989, First Nations' wood lots had not been systematically managed, partly due to a lack of trained personnel within the Native community to supervise and implement recommendations within the existing forest management plans. Progress started with the first of many four-week training programs, delivered by the New Brunswick Community College (Miramichi). Activities underway in the 1990-91 season consisted of a few small projects on the Red Bank, Woodstock, Fort Folly and Tobique First Nation and a much larger project here at Eel Ground which now served as a role model for other First Nations across the country. Total output during this first operational season amounted to 88 hectares of residual removal, seven hectares of pre-commercial and 2.8 km of road construction, creating 73 person/weeks of employment. As the program progressed, community interest increased substantially, and other First Nations initiate forestry operations in hopes of trying to emulate the success that the Eel Ground experience. By 1994-95, the last year for the cooperation funding agreement, it was apparent that interest by various First Nations was high and substantial progress was being made by the Big Cove, Burnt Church, Red Bank and Tobique First Nations with dramatic growth happening in the Eel Ground First Nation. Funding for the 1995-96 season was provided by carry-over from the now-expired Agreement, augmented by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Canadian Forest Service

(CFS). Under the MOU, money was allocated for silviculturetreatments, supervision, administration, road construction and maintenance, and capacity building at the First Nation level. It was a highly successful year. Five bands took part (Eel Ground, Red Bank, Big Cove, Burnt Church and Tobique) with more than 345 hectares of residual removaland/or pre-commercial thinning occurring, 0.5 km of road construction and approximately 40 person years employment created. Areas that were originally treated as residual removal stands were responding very well, giving way to higher, more sophisticated treatment such as pre-commercial thinning. During the 95/96 season the formation of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Forestry Association was established in order to coordinate efforts among the First Nations in New Brunswick to secure future forestry funding and share information and expertise concerning community and natural resources issues. The committee has prepared a draft Native Forestry Program for discussion with the government on the continuation of the Native Lands program and the direction Native Lands Forestry should take in the future. The formation of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet alliance has spurred interest of those First Nations who have not yet taken part in the program. As they see the impressive results the program has had on community empowerment, self-reliance, forest rehabilitation and job creation, more groups have become part of the success story. Since 1996, funding has been provided through the First Nation Forestry Program (FNFP). With more First Nations participating in the program funding levels fall short when addressing the actual requirements and needs identified by all First Nations undertaking forestry.

Community Involvement: Natural habitat and environmental concerns have played a big role in forest planning within the participating First Nations. In Eel Ground's case, this was brought about by community meetings held during the off season in order to gather concerns identified by members who utilize the forest for other reasons. Changes were initiated as a result. Wildlife corridors are left, so large game animals can traverse the forest safely, and cavity trees remain to provide shelter for nesting birds. Large uncut areas are left around springs to protect drinking water sources for animal, fish, and man, and buffer strips are left alongside water courses to protect fish habitat along with medicinal plants, such as muskrat root, which grow there. Native medicine has also become an integral part of the Eel Ground Forestry Plan since the community dependent on the conservation of certain species of trees considered undesirable for commercial purposes, but because the medicinal properties found, has more value to people of Eel Ground. Teas made from snowy mountain ash, spruce gum and specked alder are known for their beneficial effect on ailments such as colds; and infusions made from the balsam spruce, the traditional Christmas tree, are used to treat chest problems. Other growths traditionally used by our elders for medicinals purposes, such as golden thread, another cold remedy found in a root in black spruces swamps, are protected by only treating the land in winter when soil damage can be minimal. As well as environmentally, the economic impact has been substantial. The Eel Ground First Nation has been able to purchase a mobile dimension sawmill, planer, dry kiln and truck and are now processing dimensional lumber, tongue-and-groove boards for flooring, and valued added outdoor furniture from trees salvaged from First Nation Lands. These products have been sold both off reserve and within the Eel Ground community. These businesses have also been able to secure outside contracts to produce projects that result from the utilization of under utilized species such as aspen and tamarack. This has allowed Eel Ground to increase long-term employment for community members thus creating a sense of pride. In addition to the efforts here in Eel Ground the number of person/weeks of employment generated, it is fact that for every dollar spent at Eel Ground on supervision, four have been spent on forestry site activities. For every dollar coming into Eel Ground, another five was found through other sources like pulpwood and fuel wood contracts, training contracts, etc. Other programs have been utilized in the development of trails used for walking, hiking, skiing, snow shoeing with other major trails being developed to become part of the provincial ski-doo network. The indirect impact of the programs that incorporate communities needs and values has also been far-reaching. The increased skill levels have resulted in a sense of pride and accomplishment for participants. Band members who have received training pass their knowledge along by training other members within their community. Growing conditions have been improved in treated stands and road construction has opened up access to the forest resource for forest management and wide variety of other purposes such as recreation, wild

crafting, hunting and fishing. A careful holistic management of forest resources is consistent with Native culture and is a natural progression from the Native philosophy of caring for the land for the benefit of the community. Eel Ground, through their participation in the forest management and training programs, and by the formation of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Forestry Committee both at the provincial and the community level, have shown their continued commitment to the well being of their community and sustainable forest management. Although Eel Ground's land management practices are not necessarily profit-motivated, this First Nation looks forward to a future when they will be able to become more self-sufficient by enjoying what we have accomplished to date and what we will be incurring in the future. Welalin.

3. Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Issues

Judge Graydon Nicholas

Thank you for inviting me here today: The following quotation from the NAZALK NATION:

> "We must protect the forest for our children, grandchildren and the children yet to be born. We must protect the forest for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees."

On March 25, 1999, the Premier of NB, Mr. Theriault, made public the Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Issues. This is the first time that I have had the opportunity to share some of my experiences as being one of the Co-facilitators of that Task Force. Mr. Paul Duffie asked me if I was prepared to consider participation into an examination of the deteriorating relationship of the many players in the Forestry crisis in the spring of 1998. I agreed to meet with Premier Frenette, in large measure, because of the escalating threats of violence and potential loss of life as a result of hard lines being drawn by all sides. The meeting with Premier Frenette reassured me that the Province was sincere in developing a better relationship with the Aboriginal leadership. I was also reassured that the Chiefs had endorsed my involvement. I was also given permission by our Chief Judge to become involved. I met with former Justice LaForest a number of times to determine our suitability and likeness of mind to undertake this endeavor. I had left Aboriginal politics in December 1998 and began employment with Saint Thomas University in the position of Chair of Native Studies. I remained there until my appointments as Provincial court Judge on May 31, 1991. I was designated to sit in the Provincial and Youth Court in Woodstock, NB. I stayed there until I was transferred to sit in Provincial and Youth Court in Burton, NB, on November 10, 1997. The mandate that was given to us by the Cabinet was:

> ...to consult and make recommendations on the best way to negotiate a long term harvesting arrangement as well as on how the provincial government alone, or the provincial and federal governments together, could best address the other issues of importance to the Aboriginal community of New Brunswick. The facilitators will have an undefined period of time to consult and make recommendations. However, during the period, regular progress reports from the facilitators to the premier will be required.

After a period of studying the Crown Lands and Forests Act and regulations, we had our first community meeting on the Kingsclear First Nation on May 29, 1998. Our last community meeting was with the Big Cove elders, women and youth on December 3, 1998. The very last meeting was the Premier Theriault, First Nation Chiefs and federal/provincial government officials on January 22, 1999, in Fredericton, NB. There were a number of observations that I want to share with you as a result of my involvement in this policy process. I already indicated that I believed Mr. Frenette that he was genuine in wanting to develop a new relationship with the Aboriginal leadership to improve the economic state of the Aboriginal communities. He asked us to inform him of the changes that the Government needed to make things better. He told us of earlier meeting that took place in Bathurst and St. Mary's First Nation. He was concerned about the lack of a united voice from the Aboriginal leadership. The meetings with the forestry representatives indicated a reluctance to concede that the Aboriginal people had a right to participate in the economic likelihood derived from the forest. The professional forestry association revealed a lack of knowledge and understanding of the conditions of the Aboriginal comminutes and the devastating unemployment faced by the First Nations. They did not understand that the level of education at the community was not sufficient to result in instant expertise in the management of the forestry. There were unreasonable expectations on their part that overnight, the Aboriginal people would fit into the Forest Management Manual that had taken a number of years to establish. The public service had no Aboriginal people employed in the senior levels of government who could be consulted to determine how best to identify and meet the needs of the First Nations. There was no advocate for the Aboriginal interests in any meaningful level of the bureaucracy. This was reflected in the absence of an Aboriginal component in the Federal/Provincial Development agreements. This was more than an oversight. It indicated the Province's lack of commitment to improve the social and economic

plight of the First Nations. The public was not informed by the government of the media that the Aboriginal communities annually contributed over $80 million into the economy of NB. There were embarrassingly few jobs by Aboriginal people in both the public and private sectors. It was obvious to me that the Aboriginal communities were not going to return to the poverty that existed prior to their entry into the forestry activity. There was determination by the men, women and the youth that they wanted a better tomorrow for themselves and their future generations. The new work had resulted in less crime, less social assistance and less violence. There was an aura of optimism, self-reliance and confidence that they could feed and support their families without government handouts. They could purchase what they desired and needed without having to get someone's approval in advance. This was a very healthy development. There was also a lack of proper training by the Aboriginal people to fully participate in maximizing their opportunities in the forestry sector. There are many other jobs beyond the mere cutting and hauling of the timber. Collective Aboriginal voices were needed to examine the processing of the wood fiber that they were harvesting. The economic potential of processing can be illustrated in meeting of the housing needs in the Aboriginal communities. On page 16 of our Report, we stated that,

> "Given the shortage of housing and the need to create jobs for Aboriginal people throughout the province, we asked the department of Natural Resources and Energy how far the annual allotment of five percent would go towards building homes. Their estimates show that approximately 4,000 homes could be built annually."

The construction of these housing units would create many jobs in all the First Nation communities. They would be able to provide homes for their members and possibly other First Nations in the Maritimes. This could have a potential of selling the building materials to the public. The full economic potential of the industry can only be imagined. The Forest management agreements that are signed between the Province and the Licensees are comprehensive. The agreements are for five years and cover the necessary requirements of the legislation and an adherence to the Forest Management Manual. A clause in the general section of the agreements reads as follows:

> "In accordance with the following guidelines, the Minister may from time to time request, and the Company agrees to comply with such request, that independent forestry contractors of former Licensees of Crown Lands covered by this Agreement, or both, be engaged to carry out harvesting, transportation and silvicultural operation on such Crown Lands in a manner consisted with Operating Plan:
>
> (a) the application of such requests from the Minister shall not exceed 25% in the aggregate of the annual requirements for harvesting, transportation and silviculture as laid out in the Operating Plan, but nothing in this section shall prevent the company from engaging such contractors and former Licensees to carry out a greater percentage of the work,"

New Brunswick was a signatory to the Canada Forest Accord that was signed on May 1, 1998, which was the same month when the Task Force was created. Among the commitments for action was the following:

> "Recognizing and making provision for Aboriginal and treaty rights, ensuring the involvement of Aboriginals in forest management and decision making, consistent with these rights, supporting the pursuit of both traditional and modern economic development activities, and achieving sustainable forest management on Indian Reserve Lands."

The National Forest Strategy for 1998-2003, in chapter 7, at pages 31-36, outlines the importance of Aboriginal Peoples in the forestry regime. The particular Framework for Action lists six goals as follows:

> "(1) We will ensure the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in forest management and decision making, consistent with Aboriginal and Treaty rights; (2) We will recognize and make provision for Aboriginal and Treaty rights in sustainable forest management; (3) We will increase access to forest resources for Aboriginal communities to pursue both traditional and economic development activities; (4) We will support Aboriginal employment and business development in the forest sector: (5) We will

> increase the capacity of Aboriginal communities, organizationsand individuals to participate in and carry out sustainable forest management: and; (6) We will achieve sustainable forest management on Indian Reserve Lands."

A year has gone by and the new Government is struggling about what they should do to create a better relationship with the leadership of the Aboriginal people. My unsolicited advice would be for the Government to review the Report and have a series of meeting with the Aboriginal leaders. They could jointly develop a framework to study the recommendations. There is a need for serious ongoing dialogue. The mistakes of the past are too recent to ignore. I want to quote a former leader of the Big Cover First Nations, Mr. Albert Levi, who told us on December 10, 1998, that:

> "It's time for talk. Talk is cheap but it can lead to priceless improvements in Indian-provincial relations. That is what I see and what I hope for as a new age politics is being born."

As I earlier indicated, I had left the Aboriginal scene for approximately 10-years, and I know the difficulties that were there faced by the Aboriginal people in this province in 1998. They were not much different when I left in 1988. Something does need to be done, people need to sit down and talk, I think its great that an organization such as this is made up of Aboriginal people, Aboriginal professionals, people who have those skills and knowledge to be able to work with the different levels of government, and the different organizations involved in the forestry sector, but it has to be a relationship that is based on trust. A relations that is based on respect, a relationship that will result in a better tomorrow, not only for Aboriginal families, but for non-Aboriginal families as well. I want to thank you very much for the opportunity to share these particular points with you, I want to wish you the very best, especially for those people who are outside this province, that you will have an opportunity to see New Brunswick in one of the changes of the season. But for my people, the river that you see flowing behind this building, on the beautiful banks of this river, is called the St. John River. Prior to that my people called it "Wallistigook" and the people who inhabited that area of land where the river flows were called "Wallistigookaweek", in translation it means the good river, because it was our highway, it was that river that provided for us the gain that was needed, and the fruits on the banks of the soil was there to give us some livelihood. And so for the people who have looked at Wallistigook, we say we are the people who inhabit the river. Thank you very much for your attention this afternoon, I want to wish you the very best in your conference.

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4. PTMC Roundtable

Speaker: Chief Vernon Syrette,
Ontario Management Committee

Good Afternoon, I am currently the Chief of the Batchewana First Nation. I want to acknowledge our morning ceremonies, and the Elder and the people of this area, thank you very much for all your hospitality.

A little bit about my community, and in regards to some of the work mentioned in the presentation. Over the past little while, I have been trying to get something established in my community, and it is a lot of work, along with all the other duties. I am really pleased and honoured to participate in the workshops over the past day or so, and I have learned a lot, and I see a lot of good things happening out there. I also want to mention the future of the FNFP, and where we are headed, and I hope we can look forward to another five-years, if not longer. For the FNFP in the Ontario region a logo was designed by Mr. Scott Stevens, originally from Lac Seul First Nation. He is currently attending school in Winnipeg. The circle on the medicine wheel represents the ideas of the partnership based on the idea of harmony, and all creation is without favour. This reflects the relationship that all people have with our Mother Earth. In the circle is Ontario's tree, the white pine, in our language is *Shingwauk*. It is centered and is the main focus of the art work, and the tree represents the forest industry. The medicine wheel is indicative of many, perhaps all aspects of life and its stages. In this setting it primarily represents relationships with all people involved through equality and partnership. The Ontario FNFP should benefit both people and the environment, for now and in the future. The FNFP issues identified are: culture and values, encourage broader understanding of traditional knowledge, emphasize self-sufficiency, development of technical capacity, and partnership development.

As an overview the allocation for the 1999/2000 year, we've been able to fund 28 projects for a total of $669,500 plus another $91,000 on this side was another four projects, which brings it up to about 32 projects, and the average cost of the projects ranged around $24 - 25,000. We continue to work with an open door policy, the Ontario management committee had discussions on this, and the open door policy for proposal submissions, there was no strict criteria that we had to enforce. As indicated from last year, in Ontario we have approximately 134 recognized First Nations and seven communities that are not recognized by INAC, so to fund 28 projects we found we have had to put a limit of around $35,000 per project.

Throughout the past year we have placed greater emphasis on telling our clients about our program, and want to tell them the accomplishments and let them know how the money has been spent. We also wanted to let people know that the program ends in another year, and as I mentioned before, I hope it goes on for another 5 years. I have seen letters about the program, so those things are happening out there.

Clients that have started from the very start of the program, very often receiving less money from the previous year because they are able to increase their own contribution, and it does indicate that they are not so dependent on the FNFP funding.

What has worked well over the past four years is the merit based review process, minimum criteria. These are some mandatory aspects as to sustainable forestry practices: viable self-supporting initiatives begin in the year of application, maximum allocation, maximum FNFP share in the total. The overall evaluation, we try to look at communities and projects to become self financing, to create economic opportunities for First Nation communities, contribution to long-term forestry programs goals and objectives, supports co-operative efforts of First Nation communities. If there is a degree of benefit that would benefit five or six communities, level of innovation.

Things that move beyond current practices in the forest industry: building Aboriginal capacity in forest management business, I have heard a lot about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and from what I understand of the previous presentation, GIS is something relatively new. In the last 10 months, GIS has also come to our community, and that is something we definitely need at our community level. Recognizing as well that the OMNR and Federal Government are

out there and have the capacity and things are easily implemented, but at our First Nation level its not there for us, and it is something that we have identified that we need to have in our communities. That technology is something that we need to have.

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP): In October of 1999, there was an international workshop in Kenora, Ontario. I recall hearing from the North Shore Tribal Council (NSTC) members who were there, who have two initiatives on the go. We also held a NTFP workshop in Garden River, Ontario. Several First Nations in Ontario were provided some financial assistance from the FNFP to attend these events. The Mitigaawaaki Marketing Co-operative Inc. (MMCI) developed three business plans focused on NTFP's, medicinal plants - floral and maple syrup.

There are a number of activities supported by the FNFP that have taken place or are underway in Ontario. The M'Tiwa-ki Services, Mr. Art Jacko who is a budding entrepreneur, fire contracting services, forest management hide collection, and as well does some training services for First Nations.

Access to provincial opportunities, a beginning, Ontario's frontier wood basket North of the 50th parallel: First Nation models. Pikangikum First Nation is looking at harvesting opportunities through another forest company which will examine the forest resource opportunities based on a community based approach. Since 1996, Moose Cree First Nation has been examining forest opportunities in their traditional territories. Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) have been developed with Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. and Tembec. I also heard yesterday that REPAP has some agreement that they are working on. The Canadian Rural Partnership Program has allowed my community to hire two people for our forestry program. As I indicated earlier, the program for us is just beginning. It has been a long struggle, as funding has been hard to come by.

Grand Council Treaty Three is also working with Weyerhaeuser, and those negotiations are on and off. Weyerhaeuser wants to work with First Nations but does not recognize our organization up in Grand Council Treaty Three. Harvesting and delivery operations, over 100 new jobs in the area. A Mill and a co-generation plant are expected to create approximately 224 new jobs in the service and support sector, and 150 new spin-off jobs are anticipated. These opportunities are also coming to my community.

Robinson Huron Forestry Company. This is a part of the NSTC who bought the license, and Batchewana has bought into this concept, and we have seen one of our entrepreneurs move ahead, and he's doing quite well. The forestry unit of the NSTC in Blind River was instrumental. A First Nation owned timber harvesting operation, the FNFP assisted in developing the business plan. In addition the NSTC Forestry Unit assessed all available timber and evaluated the worth of the crown timber license area. They will also be providing on-going technical assistance towards the implementation of the operation of this company. The license is for approximately 4.8% of the total harvest area within the North Shore forest, which is significant in the overall vision of the First Nation participation in the forestry sector in this region. Only 1% of the total Aboriginal population along the North Shore is employed within the forestry sector. In this region on a per capita basis 16% of the people are employed in the forestry sector. First Nations are under represented. The Robinson Huron Forestry Company is looking at a second purchase of a license, about the same size that they currently have. I mentioned at a workshop that I was in yesterday, that many of our band members want to get into the business, but to purchase equipment for this is $225,000. To a First Nation member this is really expensive. To get a smooth running operation with a couple of skidders, a truck, a six person crew, we will be looking at $700,000 up front, and its money we just don't have.

The FNFP project funding for Ontario itself is in around a little more than 3 million dollars. First Nations as well have made their contribution. To date for every dollar that has been contributed by the FNFP approximately $1.12 was contributed by the First Nations, and a $1.50 by the various partners.

Communication: Ontario newsletter volume one Fall 1999 is out. We have sponsored workshops throughout the last year. The Ontario Management Committee saw the benefits for funding the travel of community members that showed genuine interest in attending these workshops (NTFPs, the FNFP workshop in

Winnipeg, the Gold Care workshop in Sault Ste. Marie, and the NAFA education forum in BC).

Megwekob was developed by a First Nation organization (Lake Superior First Nation Development Trust), who with financial support from the FNFP, created a magazine that focuses on Continuing Education courses for First Nations who are interested in becoming more marketable in this current working environment. The second edition still has an education component but deals with some of the successes of First Nations and upcoming events. Sponsorship and support has allowed this publication to become more self-reliant.

The FNFP Forestry Alliance, Merv McLeod, a former member of our management committee, has identified a lot of the issues in Ontario, from a First Nation perspective (Treaty issues, Aboriginal Title Rights, various court decisions). Harry Bombay spoke about some of the issues earlier today, and how we need to pull these issues together to the forefront. My own personal view is that all the decisions that come down and recognize the rights of First Nations, certainly that it is good and everything, but I think somewhere along the line, financing has to be tied in there somewhere for our own First Nation communities to implement our own management schemes in all resources. For example in my community we have 15 active fishermen, and 5 tugs that go out on the lake for 3-4 days or 2-3 days at a time. One gentlemen had his nets out, and the water got too choppy for him to get out there. Our fishermen have five laws that they abide by that have been approved and endorsed by council. As a result he had to leave his nets out for 3 to 4 days, and he kept documenting his efforts to get out there, in the mean time the OMNR circled the nets in their big boat, took photos, called the media and saying that Batchewana is not doing their job in the fisheries management. As a result, he was charged, and we had a plan in place, that our fishermen have a responsibility in re: to the resources, and we ended up by holding our own tribunal, and 60 band members showed up. As a result, we issued a fine of 10 weeks without fishing, which worked out to $1,000/week, which totaled $10,000, and he accepted it. He still had to go to the court downtown, and we submitted our rules and regulations to the court, and that was accepted by the courts. These are the things that we, as First Nations, have to have in place.

What do the First Nation clients in Ontario want: They want a mechanism to purchase capital equipment. Financial support for on-reserve initiatives, and to explore other opportunities, more time to become established and self reliant. We would also like the community based approach to continue, need to increase decision-making and negotiations as key players in resource management with local industries, and OMNR. As mentioned earlier, I do have some question of the OMNR actions. They want to be a partner with us, but we require some sort of contribution from them, and I don't think we are asking too much from them, but every time I do turn to them for help, they never have any funds. Yet, as chief it took me about 10 months to find funding, but when we send out a call for proposals in our funding, all of our responses have been around 100 - 150 thousand dollars for a group to come and do the work that we have asked. I have to say that I am disappointed with the OMNR First Nation agenda.

Speaker: Catherine Johnson,
Quebec Management Committee

Good day. Bonjour. My name is Catherine Johnson, and I am one of the First Nation representatives on the PTMC. Quebec is a very large province, and the FNFP serves 10 of the 11 First Nations. We do not serve the 11th, which is the Innu up North, is obviously because there are not many trees up there. On behalf of the PTMC, I would like to use the process which is used in Quebec for the FNFP program.

We feel that the FNFP program in Quebec has been a large success, and part of the reason for that I believe is the fact that our program is set up and run and managed differently then it is in the other provinces and territories. When I say that I mean that in respect that we are the only province that has an assembly of Native administrators that meet on average of once or twice a year or more depending on the need. At these meeting we discuss the various projects, visions and initiatives that we would like enhanced and promoted through the FNFP program. It is a democratic process where every community member has a voice. Our meetings, reports, supporting documentation and minutes of meetings are bilingual. We have a 40% Anglophone, and 60% Francophone. Both

languages are respected in meetings and in any reports that are sent out to the communities. During these meetings, ideas and information are shared by everyone. The communities that are new in forestry, are thus able to profit from the advice from our veteran communities. We do have communities in Quebec that have been involved in forestry for quite a few years now, and they bring a lot of good advice and experience to the table. Everyone has a voice, if anyone has a question, concern, or need, they are able to put it on the table and discuss it openly between all the members. Also during the meetings, we have CFS and DIAND members there to advise, they inform us about the different procedures for submitting projects, funding projects, criterias, budgets, new developments in program and the province. We have found this a very instrumental way of diffusing the information to all the member communities.

We have found that communication in Quebec is not a problem. Everybody knows what is going on. In this aspect, our Native administrators and the communities are not dependent upon their PTMCs for constant updating and information concerning deadlines and program changes. We have found that this formula has worked extremely well over the course of the FNFP program. One strong point that I can make is that when we are talking about refinement of the program if it is continued. It is a strong suggestion to the other provinces and other territories, that you should incorporate a similar type of mechanism on your own lands and territories.

It was only recently last year in 1999, that the Native administrators decided to form a PTMC for the province of Quebec. This was in order to have more of a voice at the national level, because with the sunset stage of the FNFP, we would like to have our voice, and opinions raised and heard in order to lobby for the continuation of this program.

Our PTMC is composed of 10 members, two from DIAND, two from CFS and six from the First Nations of Quebec. It is the meeting of the general assembly of the Native administrators that chose who would be representing the First Nations on this committee. From the six First Nation members, there are three members that represent communities that have been involved in forestry prior to the FNFP. That was during the time when the CFS was directly working right in the communities with First Nations from Quebec.

In that aspect, many of our communities were quite advanced in the forest sector when the FNFP came on the scene. The other three First Nation members are from communities that just started working in the forest industry with the advent of the FNFP, such as my community.

This make-up of old and new insures that both the experienced and inexperienced share in the decision making. It is the general assembly of Native administrators that chooses its PTMC members. This way its not just the veterans on the scene that are making the decisions. As new comers we have our say, and we have our concerns expressed. The responsibilities of the Quebec PTMC include: annually approve provincial orientations, guidelines, standards and procedures in accordance with those at the national level and those who are specified to us by the general assembly of the Native administrators; to annually develop, update and implement the work plans for the province in order to achieve the objectives of the FNFP; to consult Quebec First Nations through the Assembly of Native Administrators or through any other appropriate means.

As we have our responsibilities, the CFS has theirs as well. One, is to implement the program, do the follow-up, to evaluate and approve submitted projects, also to offer advisory services to the First Nations upon request, to provide clerical and professional support to the PTMC, to report the activities to PTMC, and last but not least, to pay for the expenses of the PTMC and their travel expenses.

It is important to remember that the First Nations of Quebec now have its own PTMC, we still maintain our Assembly of Native Administrators. This is the large fact that makes our FNFP in Quebec so unique. We are the only province that strives to achieve a consensus of its members by using not only a Native PTMC but also using the members of the FNFP. When we say in Quebec that we search for a consensus through our structure in the FNFP, it shows in reality what exactly we are doing. We just don't have a group in a hierarchy deciding what the needs are for the province, we have the actual representatives from the regions telling us exactly what their needs are. It is our job to respond to those needs. Within the interim review in the FNFP there were certain recommendations made on various levels. One

of the topics in the recommendations that struck me was communications. I feel that in Quebec's case we exemplify a model of open communication between all participants, the PTMC, the general assembly, and the representatives from CFS and DIAND. There is a steady flow of information from all parties, and this is very important to its success in Quebec, and I still maintain that it is one of the reasons why we have been successful.

A huge task that now faces all PTMCs across this country, is saving the FNFP. The 2000 - 2001 is technically the last year of the program, and the Ministers of DIAND and NRCan must be made aware of the importance of maintaining and keeping this program alive. We must not only convince the Ministers to continue the program, but also to increase the budget. The activities in the forest sectors are constantly increasing, yet the available funds to finance these initiatives are steadily decreasing. This must be turned around. It is now becoming harder, and harder to incite communities that are new in the industry to take part in the FNFP, because they know that the program is in its sunset stage, the dollars are smaller, they are harder to get, and it just seems for a lot of them that it is just too much hard work for the amount of money that they are going to get. But if we can ensure them that this program is around for the long-haul, then there will be interest for them to get back into the program.

There were several initiatives in 1999-2000 for Quebec. Basically we dealt in forest development plans, the training of technical forestry support staff, forestry management activities on-reserve, training of forestry workers, feasibility studies for sawmills, development of off and on-reserve forestry activities, and communication plans.

Over the course of four-years from 1996 to 2000, we have a steady decline in funds, and the number of communities that are participating in the FNFP in Quebec, and I don't believe it is because the FNFP is a failure. I believe that is because the money is running out, and they are looking other places to leverage their funds. As we see in 1996, we had 27 projects submitted, one refused, and one abandoned by their community with a total of 25 signed contracts, with a value of activities of $4.1 million. Out of that $4.1 million, it is important to note that only $1.1 million came from the FNFP. The following year for 1997-1998, we had 28 projects submitted, one refused, three abandoned for 24 communities that signed contracts for a total of $4.9 million. Again, the FNFP contributed $849,000 dollars. We had a bit of a jump between 1998 and 1999, 27 projects submitted, two refused, three abandoned, 22 signed contracts, $3 million in activities, of which $688,000 approximately financed through the FNFP. This past year, 20 projects submitted, none refused, two abandoned, 18 approved signed contracts, for $4.4 million of which $610,000 was injected by the FNFP, which was only 14%. So you can see the number of contracts being approved, the value of the activities have remained constant. You can see these communities are becoming more and more advanced in their activities.

The summary of operations for 1999-2000, we had an available budget of $610,400, which was $536,400 came from the FNFP program, and $74,000 came from the Gathering Strength initiative, as we heard earlier there was $500,000 last year injected by the Gathering Strength program across Canada, of which Quebec received $74,000.

Within objectives one and two, we spent $335,700, which was equivalent to 55% of budget. Objective four was $274,000, which was 45%. The maximum per community is equal to 10% of the budget which is $64,000, that's the maximum that any one community can receive through the program.

If we break it down by objectives that are within the FNFP (1-4), in Quebec on the 18 projects. Under Objective one, 17 out of 18 communities were approved (business plans, potential analysis's, training and communication activities, and symposium attendance). Under objective two, seven of the 18 communities were under that objective (negotiation of agreements and partnerships). Objective four, 10 of the 18 (community forest management, silviculture work, and technical services).

Under our 2000-2001 eligibility guide (this is our proposed budget allotments), the available budget is $462,600, a 14% decrease. Under the objectives one and two under 2000-2001, we have $254,400 which would be 55%. Objective four $208,000 which is 45%, but there can be some flexibility between the two objectives. The maximum by community is set at $46,260 which is 10%. The deadline this year to submit is on March 27th.

On the main guiding principles, which are maintained for 2000-2001, only projects with a commercial objective could be eligible for FNFP contributions. A community who submits an eligible project can receive a contribution. The minimum contribution from a community for a project is set at 20% per objective. Funding for training activities should not exceed 50% from the FNFP, or at least 50% of funds should come from other sources. We are still going to maintain the same principle for negotiation activities.

Under the assessment criteria, there is a point system. The amount of funding coming from sources other than the FNFP within the proposal is worth eight points. The size of the project in terms of short, medium and long-term job creation is worth another eight points. Sustainability of created jobs is worth three points. The likelihood of success and interest of implicated partners is six points. The innovative aspect or relative importance of project is four points. Also, exceptional timing for the realization of the projects is two points.

Under objective four (forest activities): 80% is allocated to historical active communities and 20% allocated to newly active communities. The allocation takes into account the territories development potential and operational abilities. On the FNFP in Quebec when we talk about communication activities, we have both national and regional methods of getting our news out. On the regional level we have the Wapahke newsletter for Quebec. The Laurentian forestry Centre open house, the FNFP Display, the natural expo, INAC workshop on Aboriginal ecological knowledge v.s. scientific knowledge, and on the national level there is a newsletter, posters, new pamphlet, the FNFP Display (available to any organization), and conference 2000 in Winnipeg. I mentioned a minute ago about the INAC Aboriginal ecological knowledge and scientific knowledge, the FNFP is working with the AFN - QL for an Aboriginal Sustainable Development Institute, and within that, one of the subjects to be discussed will be what could be included for forestry within their sustainable development institute. The sustainable development strategy of the AFN - QL is largely derived from Aboriginal ways of life. This was adopted in 1997 and covers things such as cultures and languages, quality of the land, future life of resources, social development, economic development, the necessity of partnerships, and participation in the decision making process. The reason that I am mentioning this is because we talked about partnerships, and we talked about working together, and I believe this is a model of Native administrators and PTMCs can achieve by working with other organizations. Right now there is going to be a feasibility study done concerning the usefulness of an Aboriginal Sustainable Development Institute, as well as the projected Institute's mandate, method of financing and relationship of the AFN, QL and other Aboriginal organizations such as the FNFP. There has already been a financing agreement completed with the secretariat of the AFN - QL for the purpose of completing this study.

When we talk about traditional knowledge v.s. the scientific knowledge, one of the measures put forward under the departments sustainable development strategy, consisting of documenting traditional knowledge or mapping projects that combine traditional ecological knowledge with scientific in addition, keeping with the philosophy of Gathering Strength. The department feels they must foster the implementation of the Sustainable Developments Strategy for the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador. There will be a conference organized from the information that I have in that regard. These are just all steps forward that partnerships with other organizations can bring us. Thank You

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Speaker: Gordon Iron and Michael Newman, Saskatchewan Management Committee

Background

The First Nation Forestry Program began in 1996 with the general objective of improving economic conditions in status Indian communities. It follows a series of activities delivered in Saskatchewan under the Forest Resource Development Agreements (FRDA) from 1985 to 1995. These earlier programs focused primarily on operational and planning activities taking place on First Nation reserves. A year of bridge funding was provided in 1995/96. During this time, a consulting firm was retained to examine the previous programs. The consultant report recommended that another program be created to assist First Nations in moving towards economic self-sufficiency and sustainable forestry. The report recognized that economic self-sufficiency in forestry was not possible if it was based entirely on 'on-reserve' activities. The

report made several recommendations for a new program that would encourage First Nation businesses and promote partnerships and business opportunities between First Nations and off-reserve organizations. It also recommended that First Nations and partners make increasing contributions over the term of the program and that federal contributions should decrease. To a large extent the recommendations and the subsequent First Nation Forestry Program have achieved great success for First Nations in Saskatchewan. There have been limiting factors, that are further explained in this document, that have prevented successes from being even greater than what has been achieved.

Current

First Nation Forestry in Saskatchewan is on the verge of increasing dramatically. This increase is a result of a several reasons but the two main reasons are:

A new direction taken by the Department of Environment and Resource Management Forestry Branch. The direction that has been chosen is that in years past the Commercial Forestry base in Saskatchewan has been under utilized. It has been estimated that the past use could be doubled and this would not effect the sustainability of the forest base. The new direction also identifies that all new forestry developments must include First Nation participation. The participation can take the form of a partnership or at the very minimum must show how First Nations will benefit or be included in the developments. To accommodate the increase in commercial forest the Provincial Forestry Zone has been redefined or moved north.

A substantial amount of forested land base has been secured by First Nations in Saskatchewan through Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) or Specific Land Claims. Some of the claims have been settled, as identified in Appendix One of this report, while others are at different stages in the process. One TLE is currently in the legal system by way of an appeal from the Provincial Government. This claim is for an additional 365,000 ha primarily in the Commercial Forest Zone of Northern Saskatchewan.

With this new focus on First Nation Forestry in Saskatchewan the need for the continuation and improvement in the First Nation Forestry Program (FNFP) goes without saying. The First Nation Program remains a natural fit for First Nation Forestry in Saskatchewan. There are problems with the current FNFP and these problems, as identified by the Saskatchewan Management Committee, are identified in the Limiting Factors Section of this document.

This document is to provide information on the success stories for the First Nation Forestry Program in Saskatchewan and to provide recommendations on the future of the Program in Saskatchewan. In this report the PTMC has identified areas of concern and suggested recommendations on possible solutions to the identified problem areas.

First Nation Forestry Program Objectives and Operations

The following are the national objectives of the First Nation Forestry Program:

1) To enhance the capacity of First Nations to operate and participate in forest based businesses, thereby increasing the number and size of such businesses and long-term jobs in forestry for First Nations members,
2) To increase First Nations cooperation and partnerships,
3) To investigate the feasibility of trusts funds, capital pools or similar mechanisms that may become available for the purpose of financing First Nations forestry development, and
4) To enhance the capacity of First Nations to sustainable manage reserve forests.

The following table (Table 1) outlines national funding levels for the program.

The last two years of the program are conditional upon an evaluation of the success of the program up to year three.

Contributions from 'other sources' include First Nations and partners. As indicated, they are expected to increase each year of the program.

In conjunction with the creation of the program, National and Provincial/Territorial Management Committees were established. The National Committee developed a Manual of Standards and Procedures which outlined the respective roles of the two levels of committees. The Provincial/Territorial Management Committees (PTMC) were given the responsibility to implement the program and to develop a

workplan describing how the program would be implemented in each province or territory.

SASKATCHEWAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Structure

An ad hoc group of First Nations, INAC and CFS representatives met in June of 1996 to discuss the structure of the Saskatchewan Management Committee (SMC). It was determined at that time that the committee would have representation from First Nations with a history of forestry and forest management activities as well as the federal departments sponsoring the program. The provincial government delivers a number of programs that may have similar or parallel objectives to the First Nation Forestry Program. In addition, many of the opportunities that can be developed for First Nations will require activities that take place off of reserve. In the forested area of Saskatchewan, much of this area is provincial Crown land. In recognition of this, a provincial representative from Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management was asked to join the committee. In order to complete the Management Committee representation from Forest Industry is required. As there are several Forest Industry businesses in Saskatchewan, all with First Nation involvement and only a singular representative required, no one has yet been identified to fill this vacancy.

Table 1

First Nation Forestry Program - National Funding Levels - 1996/97 to 2000/01 (millions of dollars)						
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	Total
INAC	5	3.75	3.25	2.75	2.25	17
CFS	0.9	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	7.9
Subtotal	**5.9**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**	**4**	**24.9**
Other Sources $	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	11.97
Other Sources %	23	29	33	37	41	32
Total	**7.67**	**7.7**	**7.5**	**7.2**	**6.8**	**36.87**

The Current Membership of the Committee as of December 2000 is as Follows:

Joe DeFranceschi, Canadian Forest Service (CFS), chair,
Jerry Wolchuk, Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC),
Gordon Iron, Meadow Lake Trial Council (MLTC),
Patrick Durocher, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN),
Wilf Nordick, Indian and Northern Affair (INAC),
Duane Hiebert, Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), and
Michael Newman, Canadian Forest Service, acts as Secretariat for the committee.
Lily Peters, Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM),
Michael Newman, Canadian Forest Service (CFS),

During the process leading to the formation of the committee and during the first few meetings, membership was discussed at some length. Ideally, the core of the committee was to have come from a First Nations Forestry organization with participation from all forest based First Nations. The proposed organization, the First Nation Forestry Association of Saskatchewan was not created. The discussion regarding membership was at what level would First Nations wish to participate on the committee. First Nations could participate directly at the band level or through a representative organizations (FSI, MLTC, PAGC). PAGC and MLTC would represent their affiliated bands and FSIN would represent the other forest based bands. The committee recognized that if some First Nations were not comfortable with a representative organization, they could participate on the committee directly. To date the representation, as identified, has been successful. First Nations with specific concerns for project funding are encouraged to make presentations to the

Management Committees with their specific concerns.

Representative Organizations

The Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) has nine member bands in northwest Saskatchewan. All of the bands are in or near the commercial forests of Saskatchewan and may have productive forest land. The council is directly involved at an operational level in forest harvesting and reforestation and in forest management planning activities through its partial ownership of a sawmill and Mistik Management Ltd. Individual bands are also involved in a number of on and off reserve forest sector activities. The individual involvement for member First Nations is as follows:

1) Buffalo River Dene – Buffalo River Dene has a company called Dene Development Corporation (DDC) which subcontracts to local contractors for forestry. Current activities include 2 mechanical operations that include 2 bunchers, 2 delimbers and 2 skidders and 14 contract log hauling trucks.
2) Flying Dust First Nation – The Economic arm of this First Nation is the Flying Dust Concrete and is involved in a number of economic ventures of which forestry is one. Currently involved with log haul trucks that employ 10 – 12 seasonal operators.
3) Waterhen First Nation – This First Nation employs 21 members through their forest industry. Equipment owned and operated by the First Nation are 1 feller buncher, 2 delimbers, 3 grapple skidders and 1 grader.
4) Canoe Lake First Nation – The First Nation owns and operates harvesting equipment as well as a sawmill. The sawmill is currently undergoing expansion to include value added products from Aspen. Contracts are also obtained for tree planting.
5) Island Lake First Nation – This First Nation is currently involved in capacity building to ensure future involvement and inclusion in the forestry industry. The capacity building includes training for tree planting, tree thinning and cut-skid programs.
6) Makwa First Nation - This First Nation is also involved in capacity building. Four First Nation individuals are trained monthly. Equipment has been purchased by the First Nation to allow for the delivery of the training. The equipment includes a skidder, chainsaws and bush trailer.
7) Birch Narrows First Nation – This First Nation is in the process of capacity building. Equipment has been purchased to facilitate the training and includes 2 skidders, chainsaws and a portable sawmill.
8) English River First Nation – Current involvement is in harvesting and is subcontracted to a Band member.
9) Clearwater River Dene First Nation – Currently involvement is with a portable sawmill that employs 10 people on shift work.
10) Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) – In addition to controlling a Forest Management License area MLTC owns and operates 8 Super B Chip Trailers and 6 tractors. MLTC has lead other First Nation Organizations in Saskatchewan and in Canada with their involvement in the Forestry Industry.

The Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) has 12 member bands in central and northeast Saskatchewan. The 12 First Nations comprise a total population of approximately 28,000 First Nation people and comprise 26 separate communities in Northern Saskatchewan. Nine First Nations or 15 communities of these are in or near the commercial forests of Saskatchewan and have a productive forest land base. Three of the bands are in the forest but north of the commercial forest. Many of the bands participate in off-reserve sector activities such as planting and stand tending. A number of the bands are involved at an operational level through a timber harvesting and reforestation company, Woodland Cree Resources Ltd. A 21 million-dollar sawmill is now in operation that is jointly owned by three bands (49%) and Weyerhaeuser Canada (51%). Two bands are currently negotiating a Forest management License Agreement. A few of the bands are just beginning to participate in the forest sector. Individual First Nation participation is as follows:

1) Lac La Ronge Indian Band – This is the largest band within PAGC and includes six separate communities. With the new commercial forest boundaries 5 of the communities are within this zone and the remaining one is on the fringe. Each community participates in forestry activities to one degree or more. Involvement at a community level includes a) Grandmothers

Bay – Capacity building (chainsaw operation, cut-skid training), sawmill operation and harvesting, b) Stanley Mission – capacity building and harvesting, c) Sucker River – capacity building and harvesting, d) Lac La Ronge – capacity building, contract harvesting and partnership in a large sawmill (100,000 + fbm annually), e) Hall Lake – capacity building, harvesting and 3 portable sawmills and f) Little Red – capacity building and contract harvesting. In addition to the direct involvement, Lac La Ronge Indian Band is also a partner in Woodland Cree Resources that has a 50,000 fbm harvesting contract with Weyerhaeuser and is a partner in the Wapawekka Sawmill. To ensure that all participation in forestry is in the best interests of the community members a Forestry Committee has been established with involvement from each community. Lac La Ronge Indian Band is also pursuing a Forest Management License Area newly identified by the Province. They are in the process of selecting a Forest Industry partner. Talks have taken place with a company from Nova Scotia but talks have recently broken off. It is anticipated that a new partner will be identified before year end.

2) Montreal Lake First Nation – Montreal Lake has been involved in forestry for the longest of any of the First Nations within PAGC. This First Nation is comprised of two separate communities, Montreal Lake and Little Red. The First Nation has been successful in obtaining tree planting, silviculture contracts and harvesting contracts from Weyerhaeuser Canada through their economic development arm (Montreal Lake Development Corporation). MLFN is also a partner in Woodland Cree Resources and the Wapawekka Sawmill.
3) Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) – This is the second largest First Nation in Saskatchewan and is comprised of six communities. Involvement in forestry is completed at the community level and through the Peter Ballantyne Enterprises or the Economic Development arm of the First Nation. Involvement is as follows: a) Southend Reindeer Lake – This community is outside of the Commercial Forest Belt but members have been successful in obtaining harvesting equipment and participate in contract harvesting for Weyerhaeuser, b) Sandy Bay – participation includes contract harvesting for a variety of forest industries that include Sask Forest Products, Weyerhaeuser and Saskfor MacMillan., c) Pelican Narrows – Participation includes contract harvesting, tree planting and silviculture contracts and the operation of a sawmill, d) Deschambault Lake – tree planting, silviculture, harvesting and the operation of a medium sized sawmill, e) Denare Beach – harvesting contracts, tree planting and silviculture contracts in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and f) Prince Albert Urban – participation includes harvesting contracts, tree planting and silviculture contracts. PBCN is the third partner in Woodland Cree Resources and Wapawekka Lumber. PBCN is also very close to obtaining a Forest Management License for the largest area in Saskatchewan. The area is referred to as Amisk Atik Forest Management area. PBCN has partnered with Ainsworth for the management of the FMA. Once approved new forestry developments will take place that include two large sawmills being created for the communities of Pelican Narrows and Deschambault Lake.
4) James Smith – This First Nation has been successful in a variety of forest based businesses that include tree planting contracts and silviculture contracts. They are also currently pursuing a Forest Management License for the Fort la Corne Provincial Forest. A partner has been chosen but specifics are not available as the approach that is being taken is more of an agro-forestry based management than with other FMA's.
5) Wahpeton Dakota First Nation – This is the smallest First Nation within PAGC. In years past involvement has been limited to capacity building. Recently land has been obtained through specific land claims that will provide a forestry-based business to proceed. The proposed business will be for log home construction.
6) Sturgeon Lake First Nation (SLFN) – This First Nation has been successful in obtaining tree planting and silviculture contracts. A unique Forestry Worker Training Course has been developed for community members by SLFN and PAGC. The training is an 11-week training course that includes a wide variety of forestry skills as well as life skills,

job skills, computer skills and career counseling. It is a pilot project with follow-up courses to take place with successful completion of the pilot. This First Nation has also developed Eco-Tourism and continues to expand in this area.

7) Cumberland House First Nation – Involvementincludes contracts for harvesting with Saskfor MacMillan, tree planting and stand-tending contracts. Harvesting has taken place both on and off reserve. An agreement has been reached with PCBN that will increase involvement in forestry upon PBCN obtaining their FMA.
8) Red Earth – This First Nation has had a number of training courses for tree planting, stand tending and cut-skid operations. They have also been successful in obtaining contracts that puts to use the training. This First Nation is currently negotiating a Co-Management agreement, with the Province, for an area identified as the Sipanok area. This is being negotiated jointly with the Shoal Lake First Nation.
9) Shoal Lake First Nation - This First Nation has had a number of training courses for tree planting, stand tending and cut-skid operations. They have also been successful in obtaining contracts that puts to use the training. This First Nation is currently negotiating a Co-Management agreement, with the Province, for an area identified as the Sipanok area. This is being negotiated jointly with the Red Earth First Nation.
10) Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) - represents the interests of member First Nations. Care is taken so as not to interfere with opportunities for First Nations. Involvement has increased substantially within the last two years to include the following: a) Training – sole contractor for Basic Forest Fire Courses in Saskatchewan, b) Partner in the Prince Albert Model Forest, c) Represents member First Nations and First Nations interests on a wide spectrum of Forestry Boards, d) Harvesting Training (Nisbet Initiative) this includes training and fire prevention harvesting practices.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) has 72 member bands in Saskatchewan. Of those not part of PAGC & MLTC, approximately 15 are in or near the commercial forest. Most of these bands involvement in the forest sector is through on-reserve activities. The Agency Chiefs Tribal Council is involved in off-reserve harvesting and reforestation activities at an operational level. Individual participation from member First Nations include:

1) Mistawasis First Nation – This First Nation is very involved in Eco-Tourism and is perhaps leading the Province in this area. This particular venture will include adventurous outdoor activities related to the Wilderness as well as including the First Nations cultural aspects
2) Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation – Current involvement includes capacity building and a recent harvesting agreement for the Canwood Provincial Forest area.
3) Keesakoos First Nation – Current involvement includes capacity building through training and the implementation of the training through contracts for tree planting and stand tending.

There are two bands (Onion Lake First Nation and Joseph Bighead First Nation) that are adjacent to the commercial forest that are not affiliated with FSIN, MLTC or PAGC. For any funding allocations, the funding for these bands is contained within the FSIN component. In the initial year of the program, the management committee was not established and functioning until August. Given the late start, the committee chose to allocate the available funds on the basis of historical funding as used under the two Forest Resource Development Agreements. These funding allocations had been based on the amount of productive forest land on each reserve in Saskatchewan. As these areas changed, funding levels were adjusted accordingly. When these historical allocations for funding were aggregated for each First Nation representative organization on the committee, the break down was 20% FSIN, 25% MLTC and 45% PAGC. The allocations for 1996/97 were based on the same percentages. All First Nations within Saskatchewan were advised of the program and asked to submit proposals during August and September. The proposals were initially reviewed and screened by representative organization (FSIN, MLTC & PAGC) with recommendations provided to the management committee. The management committee reviewed each of the proposals and the recommendations. Most proposals were approved with a few requiring additional details. Organizations (usually bands) with approved proposals signed Contribution

Agreements with CFS and submitted quarterly progress claims. Reports were submitted with the final progress claim. The method of operation for 1996/97 was developed on an interim basis and was to be reassessed before implementation in future years. In addition to the guiding principles provided in the Manual of Standards and Procedures, the SMC has developed some additional criteria to guide the selection of projects. These are outlined below:

1. Projects should be developed at the band or First Nation primary business level. These will be supported over projects developed at higher levels of First Nation government,
2. Projects must have a direct connection to forestry (e.g. forest management, forest operations),
3. Training and development projects will only be supported where the proponent demonstrates that the project, group or organization shows potentials to become self sustaining,
4. Projects must develop and enhance First Nation forestry capabilities through the promotion of sustainable forest management,
5. Non-capital projects will generally be supported over capital projects. Proponents should make significant direct contributions (in addition to funding from other sources) to projects requesting funding for capital purchases,
6. First Nations must make a minimum ten percent direct contribution in the first year they use the program. First Nations are expected to increase their direct contribution by five percent each year they use the program,
7. A clear description of all funding sources must be provided, including the amount source and type of contributions. The contributor from Other Sources must be clearly identified,
8. Projects must meet the goals and objectives of the National program,
9. Outstanding reports. A deadline for January 22 for all project reports, and
10. Quarterly reports require a financial statement in addition to a written report.

Future Operations

With the expansion of forestry in the Province of Saskatchewan there are many opportunities to increase First Nation involvement in forestry. First Nations can become the major players in the forest industry if proper steps are taken. The following areas have been identified as priorities also due to the substantial increase in forestry land base for First Nations in Saskatchewan. With Traditional Land Claims and Specific Land Claims for First Nations in Saskatchewan it is anticipated that First Nation land in Saskatchewan will more than triple within the next two years. 28 of the 72 bands within Saskatchewan have recently agreed to Traditional Land selections. For these 28 bands the previous land base was 288,721.629 acres. 518,199.570 acres were identified as shortfall acres for the 28 First Nations and bring the total for the 28 bands to 1,880,036.650 acres. Other First Nations have land claims that have not been settled that will see their reserve land triple in size. Specific Land claims can be made for any area within the Province and are not confined to traditional areas. With the increased focus on forestry in Saskatchewan many claims are being made within the Provincial Forest Zone. The Provincial Management Committee has identified a number of priority projects that are required to expand First Nations capacity for both on and off reserve forestry initiatives. (Table 1) The areas identified are basic for any successful forest management. The areas identified are long term in scope. It is believed that it will take 5 years to successfully accomplish all the areas identified. Some areas will be ongoing as new technologies are developed and with increased forestry involvement. These projects and components of each are as follows:

Provide forestry training

a) Identify training needs in each area
b) Link to other funding agencies
c) Develop partnerships with industry and training organizations

- This initiative was identified to meet the needs that will be required for the expansion as identified by the Province of Saskatchewan

Update inventories of on-reserve forest lands

a) Develop skills at local level (6 – 8 people on each reserve should be trained in inventory methods. Possible to "hire" through industry).
b) Develop GIS/GPS computer skills
c) At least one person knowledgeable in industry/co-management on each reserve to maintain data.

- This initiative was identified as the current forest information that is available for on-reserve forests is out-dated, in some cases, by as much as 30 years.

Develop a forestry management strategy for on reserve forests based on updated inventories and new forest developments.

a) Community participation in plan developments
b) Plan to include components on economics, cultural and science
c) Full range of values to be considered in the plan (fire, wildlife, cultural and etc.)
d) Plan to include range of options and not restricted to harvesting
e) Priories First Nations/communities. This would be based on potential to implement the forest reserve management strategy.

- This initiative was identified as many First Nations do not have any type of Management Strategy currently in place. Approval for any developments, including forestry harvesting, is completed on a permit basis with DIAND being the approving body. In order to ensure that the harvesting is being conducted in a sustainable manner, a strategy is required that identifies the annual allowable cut and a plan to replant.

Rehabilitate reserve forests (links directly to 2)

a) Identify areas that require treatment PHSP & NSR
b) Develop reforestation strategy (seedlings, supply, site prep, planting trees, project management and plantation maintenance)
c) Stand Improvement

- This is required as a result of very little reforestation taking place and a substantial amount of harvesting and forest fires having taken place. Currently the reforestation is to be conducted from the stumpage fees paid to each respective First Nation. An education component will also have to be incorporated into this step to educate community leaders of the importance of reforestation.

Fire hazard reduction in communities

a) Identify communities at risk and Priorities
b) Train workers (chainsaw) links to #1
c) Apply/Update Inventories to identify high risk area

- This is required as many of the First Nation communities reside in the Commercial Forest. This would offer the community some protection from forest fires as well as generate some employment and economic funds through the sale of any merchantable timber.

Identify traditional land for integration into land use strategies

a) Focus on training aspects of Traditional Land Use (TLU) studies
b) Promote integration of TLU data with Forest Management Areas
c) Use GPS/GIS to record the information
d) Document TLU information
e) TLU studies should be developed in a consistent method

- This was identified as a priority as there is currently very little information that is available for the forest industry. Lack of knowledge can be dangerous and in order to protect sacred sites they must be identified. How these sites are identified will be at the discretion of each respective First Nation.

Required funding

Many good projects have been successfully completed in the past 5 years. They have only been accomplished by actively putting to use dollars provided by the FNFP to leverage dollars from other funding agencies. For the next number of years there will be an increase in forestry activities and forestry opportunities for First Nations. This increase comes at a time when the First Nation forestry base is increasing and the dollars provided in the FNFP are decreasing. A substantial increase in funding through this program is required to ensure that First Nations are not by-passed with the opportunities that will come. In many cases it is felt that some funding agencies view Canada as ending on the east border of Manitoba.

Canada is alive and well west of the Manitoba border. Saskatchewan has many great forestry initiatives started by and for First Nations. It is believed that many funding formulas do not take into consideration the true picture of the First Nations in Saskatchewan. This was the case with funding provided by DIAND until recently.

There are 72 distinct First Nations within the Province of Saskatchewan. When identified solely as one particular First Nation it does not do

justice to the true picture. Case in point within the PAGC area there are 12 First Nations but there are 26 distinct communities.

Each community has a separate Administration office and their own representation to the member First Nation. In many cases the individual communities within the larger First Nation are comprised of a greater population base than other First Nations as a whole. As of this year DIAND has restructured their funding formula to recognize the "satellite" communities and the need for additional funding. The funding identified as required to accomplish the priorities, outlined in this document, is realistic and appropriate for the work that is required. The projected funding breakdown is identified in the following table.

The identified funding for the priorities identified by the Saskatchewan Management Committee will require First Nations to access other funding as identified in the previous agreement.

The funds identified (Table 2) would require the FNFP to provide funding over the 5-year term of a new Program $10.0 million for Saskatchewan First Nations. The investment of these funds would ensure that First Nations are able to take advantage of the new opportunities that are taking place in Saskatchewan.

Table 1.

	On Reserve Forests	Off Reserve Forests	Business Ventures
Training	Forest inventory, management plans, silviculture, GIS/GPS, harvesting	Silviculture, forest worker, forest technician, forest science, GIS/GPS/computer	Small business courses, entrepreneurial training, value added workshop, non-timber workshop
Forestry Operations	Rehab of reserve lands, harvesting, hazard reduction, forest inventory/MP	Harvesting, forestry contracts, forestry based (logging/trucking), hazard reduction	Opportunity identification
Cultural Issues	Consult/educate community on forest management plan, development and TLU	Identify map TLU areas and integrate in Provincial Land Use Plans	Eco-Tourism emphasis, First Nation culture

Table 2.

Funding Identification (needs assessment per year)				
	On Reserve	*Off Reserve*	*Business Developments*	*Totals*
Training	$200,000.00	$200,000.00	$100,000.00	**$500K/year**
Operations	$250,000.00	$250,000.00	$250,000.00	**$750K/year**
Cultural	$50,000.00	$200,000.00	$500,000.00	**$750K/year**
Totals	**$500,000.00**	**$650,000.00**	**$850,000.00**	**$2.0 Million/year**

The above funds would be used as a leveraging mechanism to access additional funding. The amount of funding requested appears to be a very large amount and it is. However, this requested funding is realistic for the priorities identified by the Management Committee. Funding under the previous program did not allow for substantial projects to be accomplished even when utilizing FNFP funding for leveraging. Case in point within PAGC the annual allocation averaged $145,000.00 for 26 communities and PAGC or 27 separate First Nation's organizations. If the funds were to be divided equally among the organizations (one project for each organization)

each could receive $5,370.37. Not a lot in the way of significant projects can be accomplished with this level of funding even with using leveraging. In order for the FNFP to be a success, a realistic financial investment must be made otherwise it is setting First Nations up for failure.

Conclusion

How do you measure the success of a Program? Is it the amount of funding delivered, the amount of projects that the funding has been associated with or the amount of money that was successfully obtained using seed funds? To answer this perhaps one should look at how you measure the failure of a program. Can it be judged on the amount of missed opportunities, the lack of involvement as a result of lack of funding or when there are no more forests to cut down. The later will be the case for First Nation forest lands in Saskatchewan if the priorities identified in this document do not happen. The basis of Sustainable Forest Management requires that you know the volumes prior to cutting taking place. This is not the case for Saskatchewan First Nations as the current volumes that are available are 15 – 30 years out of date and yet cutting proceeds. First Nations in Saskatchewan have greatly appreciated the funding that was provided under the First Nation Forestry Program. By using leveraging additional funds were accessed that would not have been possible otherwise. However, so much more is required to be done to ensure that on/off reserve opportunities are not missed and that on reserve forests are harvested in a sustainable manner. To answer the question posed in the beginning the success of a program is one that leaves good memories upon its conclusion. It is a program that when we are old and gray we will look back and say "do you remember when...". Under the current funding levels the legacy left by the First Nation Forestry Program will be one reflected on not with fond memories but rather with "What ifs...".

Speaker: Michael Cox
Nova Scotia Management Committee

My name is Michael Cox, from the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kMaqs in Nova Scotia. Before I begin, I would like to thank St. Mary's First Nation for their hospitality this week.

First Nations Forestry Association in Nova Scotia has developed ecosystem forestry. This type of forestry which is also referred to as restoration forestry is a re-make of the Mi'kmaq concept of *Nadoolmuck*. *Nadoolmuck* is the Mi'kmaq way of harvesting resources without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity, or productivity of the environment. As a result of the Marshall decision, this concept seems to be a valuable alternative to the industrial model of fibre exploitation. First Nations forestry in Nova Scotia has pursued projects and activities that support the following categories:

Capacity building: We are exploring the concept of community based development through the foundation of community forest management boards, by-law development for forest management, training and forest restoration, and tree marking adhering to forestry guidelines.

Economic development: We are looking at value-added products, NTFPs, maple bush development and the creation of educational "good medicine trails".

Research: In Nova Scotia, the promotion of *Wiskook* is seen as a priority, and we now produce our own *Wiskook* seedlings.

Sustainability: One of the tenants of forestry world. All of our projects maximize wildlife diversity, which is plant and animal wildlife.

Certification: We are also applying with vigor, the concept of certification, with Mi'kmaq friendly organizations such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

These directions and accomplishments are now achieved with the Mi'kmaqs as the largest financialcontributor. For our recommendations for the FNFP, we suggest that it promotes forest restoration. We define forest restoration as returning the forest to its natural state, and that is defined as pre-European contact. The natural forest, where present, should be preserved and where they have been degraded, they should be restored back to their original species structure and composition. It is our position that the government has a fiduciary obligation to ensure that the programs and activities achieve this.

Support First Nations both with the choice of certifications systems and the cost of certification.

Improve the National Management Committee definition of capacity building to incorporate vertical integration of project management. And finally, we recommend that we remove the high cost of government administration.

We recommend that all of us start to ensure everything we do achieves forests for the children. Thank you.

Speaker: J.R. Giroux
Alberta Management Committee

Good Morning. I represent the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, which is a political organization, because Alberta within its provincial territories, is divided by three treaty areas. Treaty 8 is from the Athabasca, which is immediately north of Edmonton. Treaty 6 covers the areas between Edmonton and Calgary, and Treaty 7, which covers the bottom half of the province.

The Alberta management committee is made of three treaty representatives. As a representative, I am relatively new, but as a participant in the FNFP we have to take advantage of some the services that have been offered through the CFS and INAC forestry program in respect to forest management (planting, inventory, etc.). It is my pleasure to make a presentation today. I would like to go through the outline of the First Nations of Alberta as well as do a brief review of the activities from 1996-2000, our goals and plans, and our recommendations as to what should be done with this program.

In Alberta, 43 First Nations are distributed over three treaty areas. The forestry areas are primarily in central and northern Alberta. The Saulteaux bands who historically and traditionally have been viewed by the northern and central bands to be involved in agriculture and oil and gas activities, have in the past few years turned their focus towards forestry. I am happy about that, because if I can get our neighbors to focus on the forest in their back yard, then just imagine what an individual like myself surrounded by forest resources could do. They have been active since 1996.

The committee structure consists of one representative from each Treaty area, three in total. Two from CFS and one DIAND. Preliminary discussions with the Alberta government are in place in this time. Alberta at this time, sadly won't come to the table to discuss partnership agreements with all the resources. Some of the Indian political organizations have succeeded in signing past MOU's, and I was quite pleased to hear about some of the PTMCs working in partnerships with the provinces. We can't seem to make too much headway with ours.

I need the intervention of DIAND on behalf of the grassroots people of Alberta dealing with the forest industry and resources. We need the province to come to the table because the government makes the legislation, they are the one who set the standards (harvesting, regeneration, non-timber resources, etc.), and we have a problem with that.

Roles and Responsibilities: We set the annual program direction within Alberta. The work plan is what we don't have in place. We should also include: site visitations, solicitations of information from First Nations, fire fighting camps, and tree planting site because that is where the FNFP dollars are going. We review the proposals, allocate the funding, and this is something that I still have to go through, because I am still unaware of the funding formulae. There is a need for a greater allocation of funding.

We are also responsible for the work plans, the workshops, communication activities and we will make the occasional on-site visits. I have been to see the trainees at fire fighting camps, and tree planting sites. It was great to see the FNFP money in action.

The program interest is definitely there. I have received many calls from many communities expressing interest. Keep in mind we have 43 First Nations. In 1999-2000, we have had 23 proposals submitted, for a total of $830,000 dollars requested, and a total value of the proposals exceeded $2.5 million dollars, against the $375,000 dollar budget that was set aside for the Alberta region.

There were a lot of complex proposals with great messages attached to them. Objectives one, two and four were met. The types of projects that were funded were forest management plan development. In northern Alberta a couple of First Nations have considered a model forest.

Being involved with the FNFP because it gives us more management, more participation, and more partnerships that have direct impact on First Nations. On-reserve silviculture treatments is an educational process and there is a need for more education for our people.

Wildland Fire Fighting, Type two training: There are four classifications of fire fighting in Alberta, and I am trying to interact with the other representatives as to what other fire fighting programs that the other provinces may have. I am quickly discovering that the rules and regulations differ from province to province. The type of training changes even in Alberta from one institution to another.

Log Home Building Training: The development of log homes is working. There are no set standards, as compared to fire fighting. The log home building training course that is being offered is great because it builds capacity. There are more and more First Nations seriously looking at building log homes as a means to address the current housing needs.

Program Strengths: Forestry is traditionally important to most Alberta First Nations. The First Nations are active and well represented on the management committee. I also like the word flexibility on funding and variety of various forest activities, and the open and transparent application review process.

The goals for 2000-2001: We want to and have initiated provincial and industry partnership opportunities. With my interaction yesterday with a few of you, I was quite pleased to hear that the relationship is there with industry and the relationship is there with the province. I don't know what it is with Alberta, whether it is lack of effort or lack of response from the province. Definitely this year as a representative for the FNFP is to have an MOU or agreement written and that the province are at the same table we are regarding the forest industry. Having said that, I know there are First Nations within Alberta that have already developed agreements with industry, and these are major agreements because they cover the entire spectrum of forestry. It's not only cutting down the trees, and not only protecting or replanting the trees, it is a lot more than that. They are talking about block layouts, roads, timber cruising, and planting operations. Those are the agreements that some of the First Nations are getting into. It's a long-range plan, but its starting to work. The provincial government is starting to pay attention, and they are proposing an Aboriginal framework, and this framework is supposed to get them at the table to start discussing forest industry, and the need for partnership.

The annual call for proposals was April 14 th. Then the FNFP representatives sit down together to review the applications in May.

Organized province wide FNFP consultation workshop: That is the plan that is in place right now. The primary reason is to obtain the First Nation grass roots response regarding the FNFP. The workshop will deal with a simple question "do you or do you not want the FNFP to continue". Of course, we will get into more detailed discussions around wildland fire fighting, and forest care standards. Then it will be the job of the consultants and a few others to come up with the rationale.

Our achievements so far are strong First Nation participation, communication and leadership, and we hope that will continue. We have held several successful economic development conferences, and or workshops. The wildland fire fighting type II contractors workshop. That's where I found out that the First Nations and the provincial government need to get together to get coordinated.

There are a few First Nations who are looking at off-reserve logging, as part of their forest management practices. New skills and systems are required to manage the reserve forest (Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) are some of the tools needed for plans). New forestry businesses established, business marketing studies are conducted, and the opportunities are identified.

What does the future hold: Continued support of First Nation participation in forest related activities in Alberta, for example: traditional knowledge, forest management planning, wildland fire fighting type II training. These are the directions and type of support needed. Increase the development and enhancement of First Nation opportunities in the forestry sector. Explore the link in the FNFP with other partners including the model forest program, the province

of Alberta forest industry, the Sustainable Forest Management Network, and maintain and build First Nation human resource capacity. That is what we anticipate, that is what we recommend, that's what we see as a need, and my belief is that the provincial workshop will give us a little more grass root desires to where the FNFP should go.

I just want to wrap up with a few words that I said in regards to working together, and the need for partnership development, and the need for sharing of information. What may work for us may not work for you, and what works for you may not work for us. We won't know unless we try. The challenges that I have issued to DIAND and NAFA are some of the concerns that we have. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Wayne Jim
Yukon Management Committee

Background: There are seven of the fourteen Yukon First Nation (YFN) communities with completed land claims and self government agreements, the other seven, are currently in the process of negotiations. Following the completion of the Yukon First Nation (YFN) Final Agreements, Implementation Plans and Program Service Transfer agreements are then negotiated. Once the Yukon First Nation has their Final Agreements in place, they will be responsible for the preparation of Forest Resource Management Plans and Fire Suppression on their settlements lands. The FNFP (Yukon) Management Committee is comprised of a representative from each of the 14 Yukon First Nation communities, and two ex-officio members (Yukon Territorial Government and DIAND). The Management Committee meets on a regular basis (based on available funding), to develop work plans, review proposed projects, and debrief on projects completed, discuss First Nation forestry issues and concerns, information sharing of developments - both regionally and nationally. Due to little funding available to the Yukon region, the YFNs decided it would be in the best of their interests to jointly work together on projects, rather than entertain individual First Nation projects.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

Fire Suppression Contract Negotiations:

- There are 10 Yukon First Nation Fire Suppression Contracts signed between the YFN and DIAND
- The First Nations contracts were not economically viable, in fact a number of the First Nations were losing money administering the contracts
- The FNFP (Yukon) hosted a number of meeting to renegotiate YFN fire suppression contracts between the YFNs and DIAND.
- Both YFNs and DIAND were satisfied with the outcome and the 1999 First Nation Fire Contracts were a success

Yukon Initial Attack/Sustained Action Crewman Course:

- The FNFP (Yukon) hosted a training initiative titled, "Yukon Initiative Attack/Sustained Action Crewman Course"
- Twenty nine YFN students passed the course (both theory and practical)
- Ninety five percent of the trainees received employment in the 1999 season as both Initial Attack and Sustained Action crewman

Basic First Aid Training:

- YFNs who required Basic First Aid Training to attain their Yukon Initial Attack/Sustained Action Crewman certification received it through the FNFP (Yukon)
- All of the students passed and received their Basic First Aid ticket

Conference 2000 - Training to Work in the Forest:

- The FNFP (Yukon) sent 13 YFNs to attend a workshop titled, "Conference 2000 - Training to Work in the Forest", in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- The conference included plenary sessions and concurrent workshops over a three day period. Keynote speakers and instructors addressed training and forest resource issues in enhancing forestry activities with Aboriginal people, enhancing business relationships, and opportunities

Yukon Community Forestry Program - Draft Proposal:

- The FNFP (Yukon), the Canadian Forest Service (Victoria), and the TTC jointly

developed a Yukon Community Forest Program draft proposal
- The current status is:
  The draft has been reviewed and endorsed by the:
  Teslin Tlingit Council executive council;
  Teslin Renewable Resource council.

The CYFN LSB will need to review and endorse
- A lobby effort will begin with DIAND/YTG/Yukon Public, following the Council of Yukon leadership board approval

Lobby Effort for FNFP (Yukon) funds - both Project and Administration:

- The FNFP (Yukon) Chair went to Ottawa seeking support for the FNFP (Yukon) initiative. Met with assistants of both DIAND and NRCAN Ministers
- The lobby effort was a success in attaining additional resources for the projects identified by the FNFP Yukon Management Commitment

FNFP (Yukon) Management Committee Meetings:

- The FNFP (Yukon) held a number of FNFP Management Committee meetings throughout the year (4-6).
- These meetings determined the direction the FNFP was going, updates on activities and budgets were reviewed, activity planning and served as our source of communication to communities

FNFP (Yukon) Administration Office:

- The central FNFP (Yukon) administration office located at the Council of Yukon First Nations building, administers the FNFP in the Yukon
- The office acts as a coordinator, facilitator, administrator of all of the projects and meeting held within the FNFP program. It also plays a significant role in First Nation liaison between all 14 YFNs and both the Federal and Territorial governments

YFN Forest Strategy:

- The FNFP (Yukon) and YFNs are in the process of developing a YFN forest strategy
- This strategy will endure concepts of ecosystem integrity and quality of the forest
- It will begin to address and reflect the view of the community on forest management planning with the inclusion of traditional knowledge and values
- This project is on-going for several years as Land Use Planning has not occurred within the Yukon Territory

Yukon Initial Attack/Sustained Action Crewman Course 2000:

- After the success of last years training and employment opportunities that followed, the demand was out on the FNFP (Yukon) to host the training initiative titled, "Yukon Initial Attack/Sustained Action Crewman Course", in preparation of the 2000 fire season
- This course will attempt to train 42 YFN students to elevate them from a Extra Fire Fighting level to an Initial Attack level fire fighter (asking YFN to cover travel)

Note: The 1999-2000 was/is a success for the number of projects accomplished by the FNFP (Yukon). There is a lot of interest and support for the FNFP program in the Yukon. In speaking with the Management Committee and other First Nations, they want this program to continue past the sunset date of 2001. One of the difficulties we have is the lack of administration dollars to make this program work.

Thank you very much.

Speaker: Gordon Prest
British Columbia Management Committee

First Nations Forestry Program Management Board: In British Columbia the First Nations Forestry Program is managed by a First Nations Management Board comprised of 12 members; nine First Nations representatives and one representative each from the Canadian Forest Service, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the BC Ministry of Forests. Representatives were chosen for their technical skills in forestry and business experience as opposed to band or geographic representation. In view of the large number of bands (197), tribal councils (34) and native businesses and organizations that are eligible for funding under the FNFP in British Columbia, the

Management Board attempts to assist as many First Nations as possible with the limited funding that is in the program. Applications are solicited through an annual call letter for project proposals that is widely distributed to all First Nation bands and tribal councils throughout the province. The call letter is issued in the first week of November and has a cut off date the first week of February. The Management Board meets shortly after this date to review and approve projects for the incoming fiscal year (April 1st – March 31st).

Management Board Initiatives: Over the past year the Management Board has been pursuing two key initiatives: Collaboration and *Opportunities for Developing Partnerships* with other funding programs; and, the development of an *Aboriginal Forest Industries Council* in British Columbia. The following is a brief overview of these initiatives. 1. Opportunities for Developing Partnerships: The FNFP in British Columbia has recognized that there are a number of other government agencies and organizations that are also involved in the delivery of forestry and business related services and programs to First Nations individuals, communities and companies. To investigate potential linkages and partnerships with these agencies, the Management Board in September 1998 established a subcommittee or Forest Opportunities Working Group. The Working Group was comprised of three First Nations members and three government members from the Board. The FNFP Management Board was interested in identifying these agencies and determining whether there is potential for developing working relationships that could potentially harmonize programs and enhance efforts to deliver these programs to First Nations in .B.C.. This was also one of the recommendations identified in the final report of the FNFP Interim Review, November 1998.

On November 6, 1998, the Working Group hosted a meeting in Vancouver of agencies that offer forestry related programs to First Nations. The objective was to better coordinate respective forestry programs for First Nations and to work together more effectively. Participants included representatives from Aboriginal Business Canada, BC Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Forest Renewal BC, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, B.C. Post Delgamuukw Capacity Panel and the forest industry. The meeting was a positive first step in bringing programs together to exchange information and to explore collaborative opportunities. As a result of the meeting there was general agreement amongst the participants that discussions should continue to explore potential opportunities. Discussion with some of these representatives continued at later dates following this initial meeting. As a result, a proposal and presentation was made to the Post Delgamuukw Panel in December 1998. In September 1999 the FNFP Working Group contracted an Aboriginal-owned company, Aarrow Productions Inc., to interact with the other agencies to continue pursuing the interest in forming partnerships to improve and harmonize the delivery of programs and services. The goal of the study was to make recommendations to the FNFP of steps that can be taken to formalize partnerships with agencies where overlaps and opportunities have been identified. Opportunities for partnerships include shared management models, coordinated program communications, streamlined application processes, shared expertise, joint review committees, administration of funding programs for other agencies, co-funded projects, and co-sponsorships of information sessions and workshops. The study was also initiated in response to comments received by the FNFP from First Nations individuals recommending a coordinated approach among forestry-related agencies in an effort to reduce the amount of paperwork, streamline applications and synchronize time lines and criteria for funding. The contractor produced a report in December 1999 that identifies potential collaborations and partnerships in the area of First Nations forestry programs and makes recommendations on how to pursue and formalize these partnerships.

The report, *Opportunities for Developing Partnerships*, is based on research and interviews conducted by Aarrow Productions with the following agencies: Aboriginal Business Canada (Industry Canada), B.C. ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, B.C. Ministry of Forests, Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada), B.C. Capacity Initiative Council (DIAND), Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia, Forest Renewal B.C., Human Resources Development Canada, New Forest Opportunities Ltd., Resource Access Negotiations Program (DIAND). Aarrow Productions contacted these agencies to determine where there might be opportunities for partnership agreements for the delivery of services with the FNFP. Although these agencies all provide financial and technical assistance to

First Nations in areas relating to forestry development, they vary in terms of scope, objectives, delivery, funding and other criteria. Of specific interest was how the programs were delivered, their management structures, the types of projects funded, funding arrangements, time lines and administrative procedures including applications, guidelines, eligibility and other information that would be of interest and useful within the scope of the study. The study compared the FNFP with the other programs to identify areas of overlap and "niches" for the FNFP. The areas of opportunity where coordinated agreements or working relationships have potential to be developed were also identified. The Framework Agreement describes how the two programs (FNFP and Other Agency) can work together by identifying common interests and potential areas of cooperation. The framework is a workable arrangement with each agency that can be finalized into a Coordinated Agreement between the FNFP and the other agency. The following is an outline of an agreement: Agreement Purpose and Objective, Overview of FNFP and Other Program, Areas of Opportunities and Collaboration, Responsibilities and Time lines, Terms and Conditions, Cost-sharing or Co-funding Arrangements. Delivery Mechanisms, Sharing of Information and Project Monitoring, Communications Plan. The results of the study conducted by Aarrow Productions Inc. indicated that there are at least five agencies with excellent potential for partnership, two agencies with moderate potential for partnerships, and three agencies with minimal potential for partnerships.

The following is a **Summary of the Recommendations**: Forest Renewal B.C.: During the completion of the study, the FNFP and Forest Renewal B.C. (FRBC) identified an opportunity for the co-delivery of funding, established guidelines, and entered into a formal partnership agreement in the form of a service contract. As part of the 2000-2001 funding cycle, the FNFP will distribute up to a total of $300,000 on behalf of FRBC to enhance the creation or expansion of First Nations forestry businesses, create new jobs or maintain existing jobs, leverage private and public sector funding and support revenue-generating.

B.C. Capacity Initiative (DIAND): It is apparent from past communications between staff and management boards of the FNFP and the B.C. Capacity Initiative that there is strong motivation within both agencies to identify opportunities to cooperatively deliver some programs. Both agencies have a mandate to increase capacity in First Nations communities to sustainably manage forests. The B.C. Capacity Initiative was announced in April 1999 following recommendations from the Post Delgamuukw Capacity Panel and is delivered through a Capacity Initiative Council, a similar format to the FNFP. The Council is comprised of First Nations, industry representatives and government officials that have significant experience working with First Nations communities and the forestry sector. In order to follow up and develop a feasible proposal for both boards to consider, it was recommended that a sub-committee be formed to pursue and discuss potential partnerships. It is evident that there are many overlaps and opportunities, but it will take a concerted effort to articulate and make recommendations on the steps required to formalize a partnership.

Resource Access Negotiations Program (DIAND): Over the past year the FNFP Management Board and the Resource Access Negotiation (RAN) Program representatives have informally discussed the development of a coordinated process and a joint application. Based on past communications, it was recommended that the FNFP follow up with RAN to explore the advantages and drawbacks of developing a joint application process. Due to the similarities between the programs, it was also recommended that discussions about joint management opportunities continue to be explored.

Human Resources Development Canada: Representatives of all the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agencies and Urban Aboriginal Employment Initiatives meet a few times a year to discuss criteria, employment trends and other issues. It was recommended that the FNFP make a formal presentation at one of these meetings to inform the management and funding officers of these organizations about the opportunity for First Nations bands and businesses to access training and employment funding through the FNFP.

B.C. Ministry of Forests: The Ministry of Forests is committed to increasing Aboriginal involvement in the forest sector by encouraging First Nations' participation in forest resource planning and exploring opportunities for economic

development. These goals are consistent with the FNFP's objectives. It was recommended that the two agencies meet to review and identify programs and processes that can have common goals and objectives.

Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia: The Council of Forest Industries, along with other agencies, assists in delivering a First Nations Forestry Technician Training Program. Some First Nations bands have difficulty in meeting the contribution requirement of $4,000 to have a community member participate in the Forestry Technician Training Program (FTTP) and suggested that the FNFP might consider partially or fully subsidizing some of these bands who are having difficulty. Since the application process and selection of candidates for the FTTP takes place in the early summer and the FNFP application has a early winter deadline, it would not be possible for the FNFP to provide funding for a selected individual. Instead, the FNFP might designate a specified number of positions that it is willing to support, and allocate those funds to be awarded to bands who are successful in placing interns in the program in the summer, with the individuals to be identified at a later date.

New Forest Opportunities Ltd.: The FNFP and New Forest Opportunities (NFO) are both involved in programs that are dedicated to increasing employment opportunities for First Nations and supporting the development and growth of band-operated or First Nations-owned contracting companies. Many of the First Nations bands and companies that have secured watershed restoration, inventories, recreation related enhancement, and forestry enhancement contracts directly from NFO or sub-contracted through forest corporations, have received business start-up, training and capital funding from FNFP. It was recommended that the FNFP provide NFO with a list of bands and First Nations companies that have received funding over the past four years. Although this would not be intended to influence NFO's selection of First Nations contractors, it would provide them with information on ventures that have been successful in receiving FNFP funding and have long-term plans to provide employment in their communities.

B.C. Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs: The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs' First Citizens' Fund has a database of First Nations companies that have received funding through its Business Loans Program. It is a confidential database, but it may be of value to the FNFP if permission can be obtained to gather generic statistical data on forestry-related projects, trends in funding, needs assessments, etc.

Aboriginal Business Canada (Industry Canada): It was recommended that the FNFP continue its informal relationship with Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) which involves the sharing of information on shared clients which enhances ABC's ability to evaluate a funding application.

Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada): The Canadian Wildlife Service and the FNFP have a shared interest in the sustainable management of forestry resources within traditional Aboriginal territories. The formalization of regular information sharing, perhaps through the exchange of reports, studies, funding programs, training results, etc., could be established. This information could be beneficial in keeping the staff and management at each agency aware of its efforts to support technical and scientific capacity building in First Nations communities.

Further Recommendations: In addition to recommendations targeting specific government agencies or organizations, there are a number of general recommendations for the FNFP Management Board to consider. They include: The development of a central clearing house of information on First Nations forestry-related programs and services that would be available to First Nations bands, tribal councils, companies and individuals in B.C. This might be achieved through the creation of a web site, a newsletter, information packages, or an actual resource centre at a central government office. The development of an Aboriginal forest industry association to advocate for First Nations involved in the forest sector. Discussions with several of the potential partners, First Nations bands and companies, and the FNFP Management Board have all indicated that there is a need to establish such an organization. The development of a database of First Nations bands and companies that are involved in the forestry sector. This database might include a brief company history, contact information, products and services, clients, expertise of staff, etc. Almost

every agency and organization interviewed for this report has a database of First Nations clients which could be combined, with the appropriate permission, to create a master list of forestry sector businesses and ventures. This list would be useful for the distribution of information on programs and services, and also to form the basis for a membership drive for an Aboriginal forestry association. Bands and companies that agree to include their company profiles could potentially benefit from provincial, national and international marketing opportunities. Designating a government agency to formally monitor the results of conferences and research related to First Nations forestry programs and services, and innovative developments in the forest sector. This type of information could also be made available to First Nations through a central information centre.

Development of an Aboriginal Forest Industries Council: At a meeting of the First Nations Forestry Program Management Board on October 14, 1999, a working group was established to determine the level of interest in developing an Aboriginal Forest Industries Council in B.C. and to plan a conference in June 2000 that would focus on Aboriginal-forests industry partnerships. The purpose of the conference is to bring a broad group of First Nations, Aboriginal and forest industry representatives together to share information in matters relating to forestry, joint ventures and partnerships. The FNFP Forest Opportunities Working Group feel the time is right for the formation of an Aboriginal Forest Industries Council to create a more supportive and collaborative climate for new and existing Aboriginal forest tenure holders and wood products processors. In the post Delgamuukw and post treaty eras, First Nations will be assuming an expanded role in the BC forest industry and natural resource management sectors. In the future Aboriginal forest businesses and tenure holders will control a larger segment of BC's forested land base. In the meantime; as First Nations, the federal and provincial governments, and treaty tables work together to resolve the Aboriginal land title question, there is a need to look toward practical matters. If First Nations are to benefit from greater access to forest resources, they must develop strategies to build Aboriginal corporate capacity in the timber harvesting and wood products processing sectors. As more Aboriginal individuals, bands and tribal groups acquire forest tenures and wood processing facilities; the need for the formation of an Aboriginal forest-industry trade association is becoming increasingly evident. Although there are First Nations' organizations involved in forest sector activities in some regions, a province-wide organization representing Aboriginal forest industry business interests is lacking.

Aboriginal Forest Industries Council: The development of an Aboriginal forest industry organization, tentatively named the Aboriginal Forest Industries Council (AFIC), was also a recommendation from the Aarrow Productions study. The purpose of AFIC would be to act as a technical resource centre where First Nations forestry businesses and industries, especially emerging companies, can go to for assistance, information and advise on business development, planning and operations. Through this function a supporting database for First Nations and Aboriginal forest industries can be developed for their use and technical assistance. The organization would focus on capacity building and address issues with province wide implications.

The objectives of AFIC are:

- To provide First Nations with a forum to meet and share technical and business-related information and expertise in matters relating to the forest industry,
- To represent First Nations business interests in provincial forest industry forums, and
- To assist Aboriginal forest industries in collaborating and learning from each other.

The role of AFIC would focus on the following key areas:

- Working with governments to create business opportunities within traditional territories for the acquisition of major forest tenures for Aboriginal groups.
- Communicating with the non-Aboriginal corporate sector to form meaningful and viable partnerships and joint ventures with interested First Nation's individuals, bands and tribal groups.
- Seeking and promoting potential markets and trade between Canada, the USA and offshore indigenous interests.
- Providing a forum to discuss reasonable taxation, stumpage and royalty rates for First

Nations' forest companies in relation to their Aboriginal land title.
- Protecting the environment and promoting sustainable land use management and practices.
- Developing forest-products certification for culturally sensitive forest practices.
- Protecting First Nations interests in botanical forest products for medicinal, spiritual and nourishment purposes.

The primary participants in the development of AFIC include First Nations tenure holders and potential tenure holders, existing joint ventures and First Nations businesses, value-added industries and wood processing groups.

AFIC Action and Implementation Plan: ***Phase One: Investigate Creation of AFIC:*** The initial phase of this project (January 1 – March 31, 2000) is to investigate and broaden the awareness of the concept of AFIC to determine whether there is sufficient support within the Aboriginal community to develop an organization that can represent First Nations forest industry interests. Consultations will also include government agencies, forest industry representatives, joint ventures and secondary processing businesses. As part of this investigation, funding opportunities or other funding mechanisms that will ensure the viability and sustainability of AFIC will also be identified. The objective is to solicit interest in developing a technical, non-political Aboriginal forest industry council that will be self-reliant and that will represent First Nations' business interests in provincial forest industry forums. During the initial phase, while AFIC is being developed, the First Nations Forestry Program Management Board will act as the pro-team Board of Directors until AFIC has time to build its membership, structure and business constituency. The pro-tem Board will appoint a temporary AFIC chair from January 1 – March 31, 2000, to begin the process of developing the organization and to explore, promote and solicit Aboriginal, corporate and government support for the creation of AFIC. By March 31, 2000, the temporary AFIC chair will report to the FNFP Management Board on the viability of AFIC and the next steps to be taken.

Phase Two: Organize June 2000 Conference: Phase two of this project (April 1 – June 30, 2000) consists of planning and holding a province wide Conference on Aboriginal Forest Industries Partnerships in June 2000. The conference will broaden the participation of Aboriginal and industry representatives in discussing forestry joint ventures and partnerships and in determining the level of support for the creation of AFIC. The conference will provide an opportunity to endorse and develop the mandate and organizational framework of AFIC. At this forum a permanent AFIC Chair or President could be appointed to formally launch the organization. March 13, 2000. Thank you

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Speaker: Jennifer Walker-Larson
NorthwestTerritories Management Committee

My name is Jennifer Walker-Larson and I work with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board in Inuvik as the forestry/fisheries biologist. It is a co-management board, and I am here representing the Gwich'in Tribal Council. I will be talking about one of the First Nation Forestry Program projects and I am excited to be here to share this with a national audience. It is a regeneration and productivity project. The first thing people ask me from the south is: fisheries/forestry, what does that mean? They do not know that there are a lot of trees.

First, I would like to give you a little background about the Gwich'in area, and about the forestry resources in that are. Following that, I am going to talk a little about the forestry management planning. I will then give a brief overview of the project, and tell you about how the project came about. We brought together a lot of partners, and funding agencies.

Background: The Gwich'in settlement area was established in 1992 with the Gwich'in comprehensive land claim agreement. It is along the Yukon border and covers 57,000 square kilometers of forested area. 40% of this area is Gwich'in private land, the surface rights, and sometimes the sub-surface rights are owned by the Gwich'in First Nation. The remaining is Crown land. There are 2,500 Gwich'in beneficiaries in the settlement area, and the area is co-managed. I work for the co-managed board. It is comprised of Gwich'in and government representation, and we are responsible for managing the renewable resources.

The forest resources: The warming influence of the McKenzie river allows trees to grow. The

trees are distributed along the waterways where there is a lot of white spruce that tends to grow in the more productive areas. In the upland areas it is primarily black spruce, although some of the white spruce grows on the south facing slopes. Our primary concerns with the management areas are the riparian areas in the delta. This is where most of the cutting occurs, because this is where the people have the best access. The white spruce in these areas can grow from 70 - 80 feet high. It is sort of misleading to see these tall trees, and to think that these areas are productive, and considering how far north we are, the growth is very slow. On a good year, the trees will put on a 3rd to a ½ a millimeter per year of ring growth. Our best guess is that some of the trees are over 500 years old.

Although this area is relatively undeveloped, there has been a long history of forest use in the area. Prior to the 1980, it was primarily subsistence use by the Aboriginal groups. In the 1880's the Hudson Bay Company established four trading posts in the settlement area. This was the start of large impact on the forestry reserves. These trading post were supplied by steam ships. It was calculated that the steam ships would burn 3.7 cords of firewood per hour of travel. They had Aboriginal crews all over the delta who's jobs was to just cut wood for these ships. Shortly after the trading posts were established, settlements were also established. So you had hospitals, mission schools, houses, a lot of the lumber for these building came from the south, but they relied on a lot of firewood in the area for heat, and they used a lot of wood until the 50's, when there was a conversion to oil.

Currently, there is less forest use, but there is still firewood use to off-set the high oil costs. There are also subsistence uses such as cabin building. Every settlement also has a saw woodmiser, so that community members can generate some lumber for their personal use. A lot of the Gwich'in people are concerned with conserving the forest resources. The Elder who cut the wood in the 50's, now looks at those same sites, and see that the trees are 40 - 50 years old and only 5 - 6 feet tall, so they see the slow growth, and they are very concerned about protecting this resource for their children, and protecting the traditional life style for their children. Our concern at the Gwich'in board right now is the resources, and to ensure that they are there for future generations.

We are starting at zero with our forest management planning, and we are trying to answer basic questions. The first one is what is there for trees. To start answering this question, we completed inventory work of the more productive area, and we have also purchased a landsat satellite image, we've been classifying along with the territorial government to do a vegetation classification.

The second question we are trying to answer is how can we use this resource, how has it been used in the past, how is it being used now, and to come up with some management strategies. We have completed a forest use survey in 1996/97 on how the community was using the forest resources, we had community interviewers interview people on what they valued about the forest, how they used the forest, where they cut wood, and how they would like to see their forest resources managed. We also had a traditional knowledge workshop. We had many Elders come together and talk about the forest, the changes and collected the information that they had about the forest.

A critical question that we are struggling with now is: how fast these trees can grow? We know it is slow, but its hard to think and plan over 400 -500 years. We have set up permanent growth plots with the department of renewable resources. We are trying to determine how fast the trees grow, and of course we may have to wait four or five hundred years before we find out. We also want some sort of quick answer, and that is why we started this regeneration and productivity project. I would like to give you a brief overview of what we hope to achieve with the project.

We are trying to determine how fast the trees grow naturally on natural sites, and the second part is how fast do trees re-grow on sites that have been cut. The delta is a dynamic place, these river environments. The perma frost levels change, the water moves around. So what was a good site 500 years ago, may not be a good site now.

We tried to identify where harvesting had taken place, so we wanted to put a date and how the site were harvested. To dot this, local knowledge was used and the Hudson Bay archives. Then we had a science component to quantify how the trees were growing. We had two parts to the project. There were 40-sites identified where we

knew the history of the cutting. Once the sites were identified we had students from the department of renewable resources from the University of Alberta to look at pilot studies for growth. It is difficult to determine age, because the rings are so small, and the dynamic nature of the deltas. Every year, sediment is dumped on the shores, and the actual base of the tree can be actually a meter to a meter and a half below the ground. So potentially, we could be missing up to 200 years right there. Next year will be the first full year of work on these pilot studies, now that we have a better idea of what we are dealing with.

How we brought all these partners together. It started with a professor from the department of anthropology, Dr. David Anderson. He was in the settlement area in 1997. All the research in the area must be approved by the communities. So, we found out about him and his project. He told us about the Sustainable Forest Management Network, that he was involved with. He then brought in Dr. Ross Wine, from the Department of Renewable Resources to look at the biology end. The project was funded by the Sustainable Forest Management Network. This is a Canadian wide network, that is working to come up with ways of sustainably managing our forests in Canada. All these partners put money into the pot, and divided up the pot for University based research projects. In 1999-2000 they had five million dollars worth of funding. The project that we had is about a $200,000 dollar project, and they kicked in about $50,000. This network identified Aboriginal and First Nations research as a priority in 2000-2001. It is a great network to be part of because of all the partnerships that are facilitated. The partners involved in this project included the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and the Territorial governments, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the First Nation Forestry Program. It also involved the Polar Continental Shelf Project (provides logistical support to government, university and independent researchers in the Arctic). They have been critically important to our program, access is a problem, many sites are only accessible by helicopter. Each year we generally get about 50 to 70 hours from this organization which is worth $70,000 dollars per year. This summer there has been two other partners brought into our project, we have the generation and productivity project that will continue for another two years. Now we have an economist from University of Alberta, that is looking at developing sustainable NTFPs. He is trying to find out if there is a First Nations product advantage, to see if the First Nations product will be able to charge more, and get a little bit of an edge in the NTFPs market. We also have another partner from the University of Alberta, looking at expanding our GIS capabilities in the settlement area.

Other forestry projects on the go: We had a big fire last year, and we are now trying to do some community education about the fire. So, we are doing a fire effects camp with kids, schools and community Elders. We are also doing research about the effects of fire on wildlife and plant re-growth. Next year, we are doing some community based forestry planning as part of our management process. With our community based forestry planning, we are trying to come up with community forest use plans for each community in the settlement area. This will be components of our forest management plan. We have done it in one community now in Aklavik. We held a two-day workshop with community members to map forest land-use in the area, discussed local forestry issues, and to try to develop some management approaches. This community has been there for over a 100-years, and they have a depletion of forestry resources. Some people are saying that they have to travel 20 miles on the waterways to get dead wood for fire wood. We held a workshop to determine possible alternatives, we talked about developing community woodlots, community firewood harvests, and utilizing drift-wood as a source of fire wood. We found the workshop very successful, and would like to use a similar process to address the other community issues. Thank you.

Speaker: Maria Moore
Manitoba Management Committee

Good morning. First of all I would like to thank Elder Margaret Paul, and St. Mary's First Nation for having us in their community yesterday. I am a member of the Opaskwayuk Cree Nation, and I am also a chairperson of the Manitoba Forestry Program and a board member of NAFA. I would like to share some of the activities we have done in Manitoba. In 1999-2000 there was a total of 29 proposals submitted, with a total of $3.9 million. What they requested from the FNFP was $1.1 million, against our very small budget of

$277,000. It shows that they have got other funding from other sources ($2.3 million from First Nations, Resource Access Negotiations, Human Resources and Development Canada, Social Development and Aboriginal Business Canada.) A total of 17 projects were funded this year.

Our committee structure has also changed this year. We have three industries that have joined our committee. TOLKO Industries Ltd., Louisiana Pacific Canada Ltd., and Pine Falls Paper Company/Tembec. The Swampy Cree Tribal Council and CFS organized a forestry conference in The Pas. The purpose was to promote dialogue with Industry, First Nations and the province. As a result of this conference we now have 11 members on our committee. Three Industry, one provincial, one from INAC, two from CFS and four First Nations. The role of the committee is yet to be re-visited to determine the role of the new committee members. We are going to try hard to make them think like the rest of us.

Our application process is similar to the rest of the regions. We call for proposals. We then submit these proposals to our members for review, and then we have a collective meeting where we hear a 20 minute presentation from each of the projects. This gives us more opportunity for clarification of their proposals. Decisions are then made, and notifications are given. This year, the committee is planning a political tour involving the funders: CFS, DIAND, the provincial Minister and the provincial Ministry departments and the First Nations in Manitoba. The plan is to visit one of the First Nation communities where there has been tremendous success. Dan Welsh from CFS showed you Berens River yesterday, and that is one of the communities that has been successful through the FNFP.

We do have some difficulties in the committee. The current process is that projects are approved with the full expectation that they are meeting their time-frames. We do have some flexibility, as we give consideration to some of the projects that cannot be started until there is freeze-up for purposes of cutting. We found that a few of the time-frames were not followed this fiscal year, and as a result, many hours were spent making further telephone contact. One of the contributing factors identified is that projects cannot start on time due to waiting on budgetary supplements from other sources. Projects usually start later in the year, around May to mid-June. This year, we found that we were placed in the situation where we had to re-allocate some funding from existing projects that could not successfully secure other sources of funding.

The committees priority this year is to tighten the monitoring and evaluation of projects, by ensuring that there are more on-site visits, and to have the CFS conduct more on-site visits on a more regular basis, and the monitoring to be done by those committee members who are within the close vicinity of the funded project.

The proposal deliverables in the beginning of the program, the major focus seemed to be on training (log-home construction, timber operation, reforestation, log and willow furniture making, chainsaw operation and maintenance). Although training in forest activities is still the major deliverable identified, it is noted that the trend on deliverables is changing. The focus is towards the need to develop forest management plans, traditional land-use studies, planning and inventory, business partnership arrangements, environment assessments, develop the signs for log homes, and marketing plans. The message is there, with regards to First Nations having control over their forests within their respective traditional areas. There are numerous projects identified to conduct mapping of traditional territories. It appears that mapping of traditional land-use is key for First Nations, as they see this as assisting them in future forestry development. It appears that First Nations want to document the exact location of their lands to show what our people are doing there (hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, burial grounds). This type of information will assist them developing future partnerships between First Nations, industry and the province.
The traditional land-use studies can also be extended to identify land and natural resource uses, and the preparation of an inventory resource. So there is clear indication to promote economic development in forestry, and to understand forestry and the management of forestry activities. First Nations are beginning to discuss partnership agreements.

I would like to talk about a newly formed First Nation announced by the Minister of Indian Affairs. It is the 62nd First Nation in Manitoba, and is known as the Marcel Colomb First Nation. It is situated in northern Manitoba. The First Nation is

comprised of 250 members, and they all reside in the local district of Lynn Lake. These First Nation members have a long history with the community of Lynn Lake, as they were the first inhabitants of this area. In the name of progress and development, the First Nation members were evicted from the outskirts of the community of Lynn Lake. They resorted to living in make-shift shacks and tents. They later were known as the tent village people, and lived as the tent village people because they were not welcome in Lynn Lake. Since that period, the First Nation members have come a long way. However, they are still faced with many social and economic challenges and the unemployment rate is 90 - 95%.

The newly elected chief and council search for solutions to some of the unemployment challenges that their members face. From this they initiated a log training program. The main priority of the program is to provide training and employment for its membership. The chief and council have no intentions of entering into mechanical harvesting operations due to the fact that less man power is needed, and by doing so would only hinder the goal of providing training and employment opportunities. The typical trainee involved in the training process has a grade six education. Other work force experience among a few of the trainees involves seasonal employment and tourism as guides or as camp help. This First Nation started one project with one skidder, 11 chainsaws and plenty of human resources. When the First Nation held interviews for the project, there were 36 members who came out. At the time they hired 10 trainees and now have a total of 14 employees. The work has been frustrating and hard, but it has also been very rewarding when you see the pride these people have in what they have accomplished. It has become more than a job to them and also a source of pride in themselves.

Based on the need of the trainees life skills program component had to be integrated into the training program. This training included: budgeting, personal hygiene, time management, and addressing social and chemical abuses. To assist in the training and the harvesting contract obligation, the First Nation hired two operators called Moosagigan Cree Nation. As a result of the Moose Lake Logging on-going mechanical cuts with their jobs. The expertise was readily available to this community. One of the other key players in the development of the project is TOLKO Industries Ltd.. They have assigned one of their staff full-time, working with the First Nation providing support and assistance in the development of the training program. Another key and vital player in the program is the FNFP. Without the financial support of this important program, the Marcel Colomb First Nation project would not be where it is today. It is providing a training and research tool that chief and council are searching to address the need of their membership.

Of the 62 First Nations in Manitoba, 24 have been supported in terms of capacity development related to forestry initiatives by the FNFP. It is our opinion in Manitoba that the FNFP has been very successful, and the program is very much needed. The FNFP must continue to further assist towards capacity development, which will give First Nations the opportunity for business development, as well as provide opportunities to their members. Thank you.

Speaker: Matthew McGuire
Prince Edward Island Management Committee

My name is Matthew McGuire and I work for the Lennox Island First Nation in Prince Edward Island. The approach to economic development is very integrated. Our main focus has been on managing and understanding the forestry resource on Lennox Island. I am not sure if you are familiar where Lennox Island is, but it is on the North Shore of Prince Edward Island, the Malpeque Bay. It is about 700 acres. Beside Lennox Island, just north of it, there is Georgia Sand, Bird Island and Hog Island. It is collectively known as Hog Island. It is part of the resource available to Lennox Island, although the ownership is still under debate.

What the integrated approach on Lennox Island is called "Community-based Aboriginal Eco-tourism". There is a couple of different strong focuses of this plan. It includes community self-education working towards cultural succession on Lennox Island. Passing on traditions about the land and about the marine resources on Lennox Island. I am not sure if you are familiar with the Malpeque Bay but it is an absolutely amazing fishing resource. Malpeque oysters, mussels, and lobster are a tremendous resource for the community.

There is a focus now on passing on traditional skills and knowledge related to resources and language. Everything that would have been involved in the traditional way that the community operated. It includes community capacity building. My position for instance is a one-year position, meant to be passed on to a member of the community. There are a number of people there who are employed to develop positions and train people to replace them. Through the First Nation Forestry Program, Aboriginal tourism and training courses have been made available. But the main thrust and use of the First Nation Forestry Program money has been for Eco-tourism resource mapping. There has been mapping of the 700 acres of Lennox Island as well as marine resources adjacent to the community. A cultural centre has been developed, partially funded by the FNFP because of the integrated approach to economic development on Lennox Island. Culture includes the forestry knowledge that is there. Different things that are addressed at the cultural centre are Lennox Island itself, the different resources, the history of the people, the history of the Mi'kmaq in the region, as well as one of the main focuses of my employment, which is the Mi'kmaq/Acadian cultural education exchange program, which works with the two communities trying to promote knowledge of the traditional ties between the communities but also to strengthen present day ties. Not by trying to integrate the communities, but by celebrating each community within the other community. For instance, in Tignish, one of the Acadian communities, we will be putting on day-long workshops on the social structure and traditions on Lennox Island to increase understanding and break down some of the barriers that exist. The Acadian community will also be coming into Lennox Island to talk about French language issues. There is some big issues involved in the French language in Prince Edward Island. This program is doing a great deal to foster understanding between the two communities, and Prince Edward Island as a whole. The cultural centre opened last year and one half of the former rectory on Lennox Island was renovated. Right now the final stages of the renovation are taking place and it is going to have a series of passive, as well as interactive, exhibits. It is really a step towards larger developments on Lennox Island, a lot of which are mounting together. So, in the next five years you will see a tremendous amount of activity there. I think the whole plan is going to be very successful.

Through the Mi'kmaq/Acadian exchange program, there has been a large number of partners brought together on Lennox Island. It is not too different from the Joint Economic Development Initiative program (JEDI) and the Nova Scotian Tri-partite committee. It has brought in people from PEI enterprise and development, PEI Tourism, HRDC, ACOA, Canadian Heritage, the PEI department of education, entrepreneurs from Lennox Island, as well as the Acadian community, because of the dual focus of the program. As well representatives from Lennox Island First Nation, and the SE Perry Committee, which is an Acadian organization in Tignish. But other funding partners that have been involved in the overall program include SETAP, provided a community planner for Lennox Island, and First Nation Forestry Program funding a ten-year eco-tourism strategic plan for the community. This is year two.

The total funding from FNFP was, $11,800. The total budget of the cultural, community-based, eco-tourism program exceeds $180,000. But the funding has been very important, especially in gathering the necessary traditional knowledge for community self-education and growth of the cultural centre, developing a community consensus, and showing that the whole program has the best interests of the community is the primary focus. Thank you.

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5. Keynote Plenary Workshop

Forest Economic Development in Saskatchewan: Larry Stanley and Richard Turkehiem

Forest Economic Development in Saskatchewan

Growing for Tomorrow

Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management

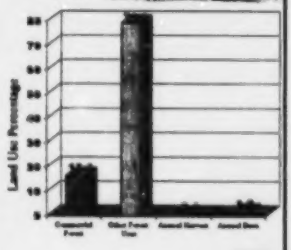
Saskatchewan Economic and Cooperative Development

Saskatchewan Northern Affairs

Saskatchewan's Forests
A well kept secret...

- Over 50% of Saskatchewan is Forested
- Forest Belt Stretches From Meadow Lake to Hudson Bay, and North to the NWT
- Boreal Forest - Primary Species are Spruce, Pine and Aspen

Saskatchewan's Forest
Forest Use Today



Saskatchewan's Forest Industry
An Economic Cornerstone for over 100 Years

- Logging has Contributed to Economy of North Central Saskatchewan Since 1890's
- 31 Communities Dependent on Forestry, Including 10 First Nations

Saskatchewan Forest Economy
Today's Foundation for Growth

- About $750 Million Value of Shipments Annually
- Industry Employs about 9,000 Directly and Indirectly

Existing Industry
3 Big Players

- NorSask Sawmill – Meadow Lake (Meadow Lake Tribal Council)
- Meadow Lake Pulp Mill – Meadow Lake
- Weyerhaeuser
  - Pulp and Paper Mill – Prince Albert
  - Sawmill – Big River
  - Plywood Plant, OSB Plant – Hudson Bay
  - Sawmill – Carrot River

Existing Industry
Small – Medium Scale Operations

- Zelenaky Brothers – La Ronge
  - Sawmill
- Green Lake Métis Wood Products – Green Lake
  - Sawmill
- L&M Wood Products – Glaslyn
  - Sawmill, Wood Treatment Plant
- Over 200 Other Sawmills, Wood Treatment Plants and Fuelwood Operators Throughout Northern Saskatchewan

Laying the Foundation For Change
Policy/Regulatory Environment

- Provincial Policies Supporting Aboriginal Peoples
  - Métis Off-Reserve & Aboriginal Economic Development Strategies
- A Comprehensive Northern Strategy
  - First Nations, Métis, Municipal, Provincial Partners
  - 5 Goals, 21 Objectives, 3 Enabling Mechanisms
- New Direction in Forest Management
  - Commitment to Stewardship and Sustainable Use

Policies Supporting Aboriginal Peoples
Partnerships on Common Priorities

- Inventory of Aboriginal Peoples Services (1995-97)
- SERM Aboriginal Affairs Policy Framework (1997)
  - Vision, Principles, Direction on Cooperation
  - Clarified Obligations
  - First Nation/Métis Natural Resource Management Systems

Policies Supporting Aboriginal Peoples
Partnerships on Common Priorities

- Métis and Off-Reserve Strategy (1998)
  - K-12 Education System
  - Post-Secondary & University Education
  - Representative Provincial Workforce
  - Individual & Community Well-being

Policies Supporting Aboriginal Peoples
Partnerships on Common Priorities

- Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (1999)
  - Includes First Nations, Métis & Canada
  - Responds to Demographic Realities
  - Arises From Métis & Off-Reserve Strategy

Saskatchewan's Northern Strategy
Long-Term Vision & Commitment

- Goals
  - Economic Development & Diversification
  - Community & Regional Infrastructure
  - Education and Training
  - Community Capacity Building & Leadership Development
  - Northerners' Role in Protecting the Environment

Saskatchewan's Northern Strategy
Long-Term Vision & Commitment

- Enabling Mechanisms
  - Northern Development Board
  - Strategic Opportunities Assessment
  - Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Accord
    - 5-Year Partnership Agreements
    - "NORDEVCO" (equity financing)
    - "Forest Business Discussions"

New Directions in Forest Management
Stewardship and Sustainable Use

- Forest Management Policy Framework (1994)
  - Cabinet Established New Vision, Strategic Objectives and Principles for Forests
- Forest Resources Management Act (1996)
  - Legal Framework for Sustainable Forest Management
- Forest Resources Management Regulations (1999)
  - New Tools for Implementing Forest Management Policy –Planning,Public Involvement, Standards, Enforcement

Saskatchewan's Forest Development Strategy
Principles

- Job Creation and Business Development
- Diversification of Forest Economy
- Direct Participation for Aboriginal People and Northern Communities
- Corporate Responsibilities:
  - Environmental Assessment
  - Planning and Public Involvement
  - Sustainable Forest Management
- Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability

Saskatchewan's Forest Development Strategy
Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship

- Land Use Plans – Balancing Competing Interests, Extensive Public Involvement
- 20-Year Forest Management Planning – Planning for Sustainability
- Environmental Impact Statements – the Application of Science
- Ecological Monitoring – Auditing the Results

Saskatchewan's Forest Development Strategy
Sustainable Growth

- Maximize Sustainable Use of Wood Supply
  - Expand Primary Forest Products Sector Especially Lumber and OSB
- Develop Value-Added Manufacturing Sector
  - Examples: Engineered Wood Products, Housing Systems, Millwork, Furniture
- Establish Forestry Center Of Excellence
  - Focus for Knowledge-Based Tertiary Industry

Managing the Process
Coordinated Inter-Departmental Approach

- Sponsoring Provincial Departments
  - Environment and Resource Management
  - Economic & Cooperative Development
  - Northern Affairs
- Modified "Core Group" Approach
  - Deputies Committee – Forestry
  - Inter-departmental Forestry Committee
  - Forest Economic Development Team
    - Project & Strategic Issues "File Leads"

Managing the Process
Coordinated Inter-Departmental Approach

- Challenges
  - Coordinated Budgeting
  - Communications & Information Sharing
  - Coordinated Strategic and Operational Planning

Forest Economic Conditions
Why can Forest Industry Expand Now?

- Current Harvest Less Than 50% of Sustainable Wood Supply
- Other Jurisdictions Have Fully Allocated Timber Resources
- North American Demand for Wood Products Strong
- Saskatchewan's Business Climate Conducive to Attracting Investment
- Current Global Market Window

The Opportunity
Underutilized Sustainable Harvest

- Independent Scientists Confirm Forests Contain Additional Sustainable Harvest
- Forest Resources Management Act Permits Expansion to Sustainable Levels
- Surplus Timber Withdrawn From Weyerhaeuser Agreement For Re-allocation
- Mistik Management Wood Supply Now Under Review

Building The Foundation
Phase 1: Forest Industry Expansion

- 10,000 New Jobs (direct and Indirect)
- Over $850 Million in New Investment
- $750 Million increase annually in GDP

Existing Industry
Weyerhaeuser

- $90 Million expansion to Big River Sawmill
- $22 Million Wapawekka Sawmill at Prince Albert
  - Partnership with Lac La Ronge, Peter Ballantyne, and Montreal Lake First Nations
- 500 direct jobs, 1000 indirect jobs
- $315 Million Environmental Upgrade Underway at Prince Albert Pulp and Paper Complex, Including Co-generation

Existing Industry
SaskFor MacMillan
(Now Owned by Weyerhaeuser)

- Land Use Plan, 20-Year Forest Management Plan and Environmental Impact Assessment Approved
- New Forest Management Agreement Signed
- Construction Underway on $175 Million World Scale OSB Plant – Hudson Bay
- Over 600 direct, 1,200 Indirect Jobs

Developing Industry
Lac La Ronge Indian Band/Zelensky Bros.

- Band and Local Mill Searching For Industrial Partner
- Major Sawmill and Re-manufacturing facilities in La Ronge Possible
- Potential 200 Direct, 400 Indirect Jobs

Developing Industry
Green Lake Métis Wood Products

- Mill Upgrade Plan Being Prepared
- New Optimizer
- Mill Upgrade Will Handle All Roundwood Profiles
- Member of Northwest Community Wood Products Partnership
- Finishing Facility for the Partnership

Developing Industry
Small Independent Operators

- Rationalized Wood Allocations to Increase Effective Wood Utilization
- Focus on Small Operators With Processing Capabilities
- Up to 935 Direct, 1,870 Indirect Jobs
- Over $10 Million in New Investment

Developing Industry
Northwest Communities/ Clearwater Forest Products

- Partnership of Five Métis Communities
- Sawmill at Beauval
- $11 Million Investment
- 165 Direct, 330 Indirect Jobs

Developing Industry
Ainsworth Lumber Surplus Hardwood

- Will Access and Process Surplus hardwood Resources
- Wood Supply Discussions Underway
- Planning Depends on Final Hardwood Allocation for Mistik Management
- 340 Direct, 680 Indirect Jobs

Developing Industry
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation/ Ainsworth Lumber

- Two Phase Project
- Will be Described in Detail by Ron Ray

Growing The Industry
Phase 2: Expanding the Base

- Up to 15,000 Additional New Jobs can be Created over Next Decade:
  - New Mill Using Softwood Chips
  - Secondary Manufacturing
  - Knowledge-Based Industry
  - New Wood Supply From Agro-forestry
  - Development of Wood Supply Reserves Protected by Enhanced Fire Protection

Surplus of Softwood Chips and Pulpwood
Next Steps

- Expansion of Sawmill Industry Will Create Enough Wood Chips and Pulpwood to Supply Another Major Facility
- Pursuit of Another Major Softwood User Underway
  - Newsprint
  - Pulp Mill
  - Medium Density Fiberboard
  - Other Engineered Wood Products

Value Added Strategy
Next Steps

- Aggressive Pursuit of Opportunities in:
  - Re-manufacturing
  - Engineered Wood Products
  - Non-timber Forest Products
  - Associated Forest Management
- Working with Saskatchewan Entrepreneurs
- Attracting New Investment
- Major Increases in Jobs Sought

Saskatchewan Forestry Center of Excellence
Next Steps

- Center for Knowledge Development and Export
  - Consulting Services
  - Research and Technology Transfer
  - Market and Product Development
  - Training
- Build on a Saskatchewan Strength:
  - Aboriginal Peoples Involvement in Forestry
  - Forest Fire Protection
  - Community/Industry Partnerships

Expanding the Wood Supply
Next Steps

- Forested Agriculture Lands
  - Accessing Forested Lands South of the Provincial Forest
  - Opportunity to Create Agro-forestry Industry
    - Diversification of Farm Producers
- Investment Driven Fire Protection Model
  - Reducing Losses from Fire
  - Better Performance allows use of Fire Reserves for New Allocations

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation: Ron A. Ray

Good morning. Thank you for inviting me to speak at this conference, and for the opportunity to hear about other projects that might help Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) in its economic development programs. Today I want to give you a quick overview of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, and then introduce you to our economic development program. Next I want to outline three essential partnerships that have assisted us in developing two major forestry projects. Along the way I will try to emphasize the major steps and factors that have contributed to our success to date. First, a quick overview of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Traditional Lands:

- PBCN Traditional lands are located in northeastern Saskatchewan
- They stretch from just North of Cumberland House in the South to Reindeer Lake in the North
- They cover the province from the Manitoba border East to about 104 degrees West Longitude
- This is about 8% (1/12th) of the area of Saskatchewan

PCBN signed its first major partnership in September 1994. At that time we concluded a partnership agreement with the provincial government that provided for three main things:

1. Better day to day liaison and consultation,
2. A framework to develop co-management of natural resources, and
3. An opportunity to negotiate a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) for our in our traditional lands.

Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning Area:
The process to achieve co-management and the FMA included the need for a land use plan of the area. The land use planning area, called "AMISK-ATIK" also includes the area we have applied for as a forest management agreement (FMA) area. This land use plan will determine which lands are available for development, and which need special management of protection. All of the traditional PBCN communities lie within this planning area and are involved in the land use plan and development of the FMA:

- Kinoosao, South end reindeer, Deschambault Lake, Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay, Denare Beach, and Sturgeon Landing.
- We also have significant population in Prince Albert to the southwest of our Traditional lands. This is where our economic development administration offices are located.

Timber Supply Areas:
The Amisk-Atik FMA, we are negotiating with Saskatchewan, covering most of our Traditional Lands. Amisk-Atik FMA includes:

- The Amisk-Atik timber supply area south of the Churchill River,
- a reserve timber supply area north of the Churchill River, and
- a portion of the Suggi timber supply area recently relinquished by Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.

Before I get into the development of the FMA, I would like to discuss our overall economic development program and business interests in more detail.

Balancing Our Priorities:
Our economic development program is founded in three types of capital and investment:

- First is our communities, which need to be good and safe places to live and work. We undertake economy development for the betterment of our people and communities.
- Second is our environment. Our history and culture is intimately involved with our natural resources. Without a healthy and whole environment we cannot have healthy and whole communities.
- Third is our economic development programs. These must serve our people and honour our environment to produce the sustainable lifestyle we want to have.

Over the past number of years, the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation has been extremely successful in the area of economic and business development. Many of these successes have resulted from partnerships as well.

Business Interests and Investments:

Last year the total assets from all of our business investments exceeded $51 million and total revenue exceeded $52 million. It is important to know that we measure business success not only by profit levels, but also from the opportunities that the business creates for our First Nations people. The Northern Lights Casino, together with other businesses such as the Crescent Heights Pharmacy, PB-Tel, Northern Resource Trucking, First Nations Insurance and others, are a sing of the positive business impacts that the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation is having on this community and the province as a whole. It has also demonstrated our ability to focus on the hiring and training of First Nations people. Our businesses employ approximately 500 workers. Of these about 350 are First Nations Workers. Our goal is to undertake training and skill development so there can be an even higher percentage of First Nation workers in our businesses. We also encourage our members to seek employment in non-Aboriginal businesses and provide training and assistance to do so.

In all of our economic development, another of our key partnerships has been with the federal government. We have obtained considerable financial assistance in cost sharing and direct funding for many of the activities I am discussing today. We are thankful for those programs in forestry, regional economic development and co-management that have made it possible for us to advance to where we are now. The FNFP has supported our land use planning, small business training and development and other parts o four forestry program development. We look forward to continued support and partnership.

There are two specific examples of partnerships in forestry development that I would like to talk about today. Our first example of a truly successfully forestry partnership is Wapawekka Lumber Limited. Wapawekka Lumber is our partnership with the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, the Lac La Rounge Indian Band and Weyerhaeuser Canada. Wapawekka Lumber is located just north of the city of Prince Albert, near the Weyerhaeuser pulp and paper mill and some other smaller sawmills. This $22.5 million state-of-the-art sawmill started production in May of last year and our June 24th, 1999, Grand opening was a celebration of pride for all of the partners and staff involved with Wapawekka Lumber. After over a year of negotiations and finalizing financing and business documents, the sawmill was constructed safely, on time and on budget. This sawmill is using leading edge curve sawing technology to produce valuable high grade lumber out of wood that was otherwise chipped into pulp. As a result of his value added technology, we are better utilizing our valuable timber resource. Wapawekka will produce approximately 70 million board feet of lumber each year. Currently the lumber is being planed and dried in Big River before it is shipped to the market place, which is primarily in the Unites States. As Wapawekka grows, we will consider a possible phase-two expansion to the business which will result in increased lumber output as well as consider on-site planing and drying. Wapawekka Lumber has not only generated full-time employment in the mill for about 20 First Nations People, but has given the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation an opportunity to participate in a meaningful way in the forest industry. This initial development, and the experience that has resulted from Wapawekka Lumber, will greatly assist the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation as we expand our forestry operations into Northeastern Saskatchewan.

The second forestry partnership I want to outline is a larger and more ambitious project that includes not only an interest in a sawmill, but also the timber allocation, and eventually value-added processing of wood products. The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation has been working on obtaining our own forest management license agreement the Amisk-Atik FMA for about six years. In the beginning as I mentioned before, we signed a partnership agreement with the province in September 1994 that provided us with the opportunity to work towards obtaining the FMA, as well other co-management opportunities. In the following years we started community consultations to let Peter Ballantyne members, and citizens in all local communities know what we were planning, and to find out about their concerns and expectations. We undertook a business opportunities plan so we could better understand what types of development best suited both the wood supply, and the capabilities of our communities and members. We started training in development of interested band members in small scale forestry developments, contracting to other established mill in both harvesting and reforestation so they could ready themselves for future business opportunities. We issued an "expressions of interest" request for proposals to 12 forestry companies in western

Canada to see who was interested in working and partnering with us. Some of the factors were experience with First Nations, diversity of operations, environmental responsibility, and willingness to construct facilities and do business in our small northern communities rather than southern cities like Prince Albert. We interviewed three companies, and made the choice of Ainsworth Lumber of B.C. as the best partner, in late 1998, and began negotiating a partnership agreement. In April 1999 we moved one step closer to our goal with our partners at Ainsworth Lumber, in announcing a sawmill development that will occur in the area of Deshcambault Lake, one of our northern communities with a history of small forestry operations.

Ainsworth/PBCN TSL EIA: Last December we finalized a term supply license application to the province, complete with an environmental assessment of the forestry operations. We are expecting approval of this five year licence shortly. Once approved, the five year term supply licence will allow for the development of a sawmill near Deschambault Lake, and five years of timer harvesting while we complete our 20-year forest management plan and full environmental assessment. Once this is complete, we will be giving additional consideration to expanding our operation in the area. As part of the Deschambault Lake sawmill, we are developing a finger joining plant and remanufacturing facility for Prince Albert. It is at this location that the lumber will planed, dried and finished until these facilities can be relocated to the sawmill site. Forestry is truly the opportunity that will assist in developing a commercial economy near our northern communities and our partnership with Ainsworth Lumber will immediately create in excess of 200 jobs. There will be jobs associated with harvesting, trucking, in the sawmill facilities, reforestation and tree planting. This is a major project that will assist us in developing our futures.

How did we develop these partnerships and businesses? What are the lessons and pitfalls I can pass on to you today? Each was an individual case, but they all had common elements. We did our home work. We did good planning. We looked at markets, both nationally and regionally to see if these were good business prospects. We did projections of business opportunities. We looked at the goods and services required by our communities and members. We studied the education plans of our youth to see what kinds of jobs they wanted to have. We looked carefully at the companies we were planning to do business with to see if they were good partners. In some cases we joint ventured with other partners. In some cases we bought into or bought out existing businesses. In some cases we started our own business from scratch. This all depended on what potential partners there were to work with and whether we thought we could work with them. We have demonstrated our ability to develop and run successful businesses and we are maintaining excellent working relationships with our many business partners as well as organizations such as the chamber of commerce and the city of Prince Albert and together communities. As we develop these successful businesses, we will build the whole community and create not only job opportunities, but career opportunities. We take responsibility for the management of our natural resources and environment, issues that remain important in our Cree culture and communities. We have done his through a variety of partnerships:

- Partnerships with key government agencies, such as Natural Resources Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, in both funding and technical assistance, and the province in granting of rights and resources
- Partnerships with our communities, both on and off reserve, to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members, and being good corporate citizens.
- Partnerships with business and industry that bring us experience and opportunity to move ahead quicker.

We believe that all of these types of partnerships have contribute to our success to date, and we believe this model will continue to serve the band and its members well into the future. I hope it can help you too. Thank you.

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6. First Nations In-Camera Session

Session Recommendations for Consideration by the National Management Committee

Recommendation #1:

PTMC representation on NMC: The NMC should include one First Nation representative from each PTMC. (Clarification requested as to when this should be implemented, immediately or April 1, 2001, when renewed FNFP comes into effect.)

Recommendation #2:

Federal agenda: The NMC needs to address federal fiduciary responsibilities for sustainable management of reserve forests, without downloading regular support from other programs.

Recommendation #3:

National Forest Strategy and Report of Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples: DIAND and NRCan renews the FNFP in response to the commitments made in Strategic Direction 7 of the National Forest Strategy and the recommendations contained in the Report of the Royal Commission of Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP).

Recommendation #4:

Convention on Biodiversity, article 8(j): That the NMC rationalize the FNFP by utilizing the objectives contained in the convention on Biodiversity on such matters as traditional knowledge and ecosystem protection, and sustainability.

Recommendation #5:

Human Resource Development: The FNFP should continue to support capacity-building, focusing on professional and technical development. The acquisition of forest sector skills in the labour force through seed funding and the co-ordination of funding from other sources. (Clarification required. Who should carry out this activity, NMC, PTMCs, NAFA? It was understood that FNFP was expected to cover administration and full training costs, but rather to support the co-ordination costs in acquiring other funding.)

Recommendation #6:

Community Awareness and Public Awareness: The FNFP needs to further public promotion and awareness programs. To address these initiatives, FNFP seed money is essential. Assurance that the dollars (seed money) will not be taken from other sources, an inclusion of a mechanism for prevention of this is required. (Clarification to determine who will co-ordinate at national level.)

Recommendation #7:

Capital for forest management services: a) The FNFP supports a move towards building capacity through funding for organizational development and such tools as GIS. b) Business equity (capital) initiatives must be explored through assistance of the FNFP.

Recommendation #8:

Regional Flexibility: The FNFP must ensure some regional flexibility in the way that each PTMC consults and determines their own priorities. There is concern with piece-meal contributions which are obviously inadequate to deal with some of the major forest issues that First Nations are facing.

Recommendation #9:

PTMC task force on RCAP forest recommendations: A PTMC task-force be formed to analyze the RCAP recommendations which deal with forestry issues, such as forest policy, tenure, agreements with governments, etc.

Recommendation #10:

Education: The FNFP supports the development of educational materials for First Nation communities and their leaders (a focus on Aboriginal youth through schools, career days, special "Aboriginal" publications for schools). Also, the FNFP should identify educational needs for First Nation Forest Management and to build capacity. NAFA is currently finalizing education (Aboriginal Professional Development in the

Forest Sector) document that will be sent out to the PTMCs. There has to be a long-term look at education for youth, and this must be linked to capacity building.

Recommendation #11:

Operation and Management funding for PTMCs: There is a lack of funding in this area, and therefore must be increased accordingly depending on regional needs and priorities.

Recommendation #12:

Regulatory aspect of resource management (reserve lands): The FNFP must identify the gaps in the regulatory regime for effective and sustainable management of reserve forests and ecosystems. There is currently no mechanism for implementation of this recommendation, and this needs to be addressed. This can be placed under the fiduciary responsibility of the government for the regulatory protection of reserve land, wildlife resources and conservation measures.

Recommendation #13:

Partnerships: The building of forest sector partnerships must continue to be a focus of the FNFP.

Recommendation #14:

FNFP objectives: The FNFP objective number three should be eliminated as a separate objective, but could be referenced under objective number four.

Motion: (Gordon Prest, British Columbia PTMC)

The FNFP has been over subscribed since the beginning, and the (BC Management Board) of the FNFP strongly recommends a second five-year cycle be approved on the valuable and important work that has been achieved to date. *All provinces support this motion except Newfoundland who did not have a representative present.*

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 2 66

APPENDIX 3 69

Appendix 1: Participants

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Director
Industry, Economics & Programs Branch
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
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Appendix 2: Program Agenda

First Nation Forestry Program

National Meeting
of
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March 21st - 25th, 2000

Sheraton, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Tuesday, March 21st, 2000	
6:30 pm — 8:30 pm	Evening registration
Wednesday, March 22nd, 2000	
8:15 am — 8:30 am	Opening Prayer — Elder Charles Solomon (Kingsclear First Nation)
8:30 am — 8:45 am	Plenary session (introduction to workshops)
8:45 am — 10:15 am	Workshops (concurrent) 1. Non-Timber Forest Products - Beckley 2. Developing a Business Plan - Mallory
10:15 am — 10:30 am	BREAK
10:30 am — 12:00 pm	Workshops (concurrent) 3. Partnerships in New Brunswick - JEDI/Eel River Bar 4. Aboriginal - Forest Industry Relationships - Bombay/Graham
12:00 pm — 1:00 pm	LUNCH - served on site
1:00 pm — 2:30 pm	KEYNOTE PLENARY WORKSHOP Working Together: The Saskatchewan Model - Ronald Ray, Richard Turkehiem, Larry Stanley Facilitator (Harry Bombay)
2:30 pm — 2:45 pm	Q & A discussion (Bombay)
2:45 pm — 3:00 pm	BREAK
3:00 pm — 4:30 pm	Workshops (concurrent) 5. Education and Employment Opportunities in the Forest Sector - Birney, Hoyt, Whitney, Prebble. 6. Forest Management Plan Process - Ginnish/Sark 7. Traditional Uses - Medicinal Plants - Solomon/Perley
4:30 pm	Closing
6:00 pm	Icebreaker reception: Entertainment by Nelson Cloud - Red Bank First Nation

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Thursday, March 23rd, 2000

6:30 am — 8:30 am	Breakfast — Served at Diplomat Restaurant
8:30 am — 9:10 am	Opening Ceremony - Elder Margaret Paul (St. Mary's First Nation) - Drummers (St. Mary's First Nation) Master of Ceremonies - Tony Gabriel
9:10 am — 9:20 am	Opening Introductory Remarks - NMC - Dan Murphy - INAC - Dan Welsh - CFS - Harry Bombay - NAFA
9:20 am — 10:20 am	National Management Committee - FNFP Highlights - First Nation Challenges - Future Considerations
10:20 am — 10:45 am	BREAK
10:45 am — 12:00 pm	PTMC Round Table - New Brunswick Focus
12:00 pm — 1:30 pm	LUNCH - served on site Speaker - Judge Graydon Nicholas
1:30 pm — 3:00 pm	PTMC Round Table
3:00 pm — 3:20 pm	BREAK
3:20 pm — 4:50 pm	PTMC Round Table
4:50 pm	Housekeeping items - M.C. Tony Gabriel Closing Prayer
6:00 pm	Aboriginal Feast - St. Mary's Entertainment Center

Friday, March 24th, 2000

6:30 am — 8:30 am	Breakfast — Diplomat Restaurant
8:45 am — 9:00 am	Opening Prayer — Elder Margaret Paul (St. Mary's First Nation) M.C. - Tony Gabriel
9:00 am — 10:30 am	PTMC Round Table
10:30 am — 10:45 am	BREAK
10:45 am — 11:30 am	PTMC Round Table
11:30 am — 12:00 am	Joint Initiative (LTS Process) - Bob Watts, DIAND
12:00 pm — 1:30 pm	LUNCH - served on site (Speaker - Melvin Nash, Oromocto, N.B.)

1:30 pm — 3:15 pm	First Nations In-Camera Session - facilitated by ad hoc working group
3:15 pm — 3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30 pm — 4:30 pm	In-Camera Session Summary and Discussion - ad hoc working group
4:30 pm — 4:50 pm	PTMC Meeting Wrap Up
4:50 pm	Details for Field Trip M.C. - Tony Gabriel Closing Prayer (Elder)

Saturday, March 25th, 2000

6:30 am — 7:30 am	Breakfast at Sheraton
7:45 am	Depart Sheraton
9:30 am	Arrive at site - presentation by Fundy Model Forest - presentation by Eel Ground First Nation
12:00 pm	Lunch on site - maple sugar bush camp
3:00 pm	Return to Sheraton

Appendix 3: Workshop Descriptions

Listed below is a brief description for each of the 8 workshops held. Further details regarding the workshops can be found on the First Nation Forestry Program web site: http://www.fnfp.gc.ca.

Non-Timber Forest Products: *Presenter, Mr. Tom Beckley, Canadian Forest Service*

The intent of the workshop was to provide a basic introduction to non-timber forest products such as wild ginseng, maple products, fiddleheads, balsam tips, wild mushrooms, and others. The workshop raised awareness and provided opportunities for people interested in non-timber forest products to expand their networks to those interested in the sustainable development of alternative forest products.

Developing a Business Plan: *Presenter, Michael Mallory, Harley-Mallory Strategic Communications*

This workshop was directed to people who are in business, or thinking of starting a new business, and who are novices at preparing a business plan. Examples were based on sustainable forestry related business. Learn the components of a formal business plan, how to plan and prepare a business plan, how to determine if a business can make money, identify key success factors, accounting basics, when to seek outside help and how to maintain communications.

Partnerships in New Brunswick: *Co-Presenters, Mr. Alex Dedham and Mr. Brian Dick on the JEDI (Joint Economic Development Initiative) process and Mr. Tim Dedham on the Heritage Garden Project at Eel River Bar First Nation*

JEDI is a unique process to New Brunswick, which has drawn national interest by other stakeholders. Learn how the process was established and how it has become diversified into a comprehensive Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal partnership.

The Heritage Garden Project of Eel River Bar First Nation is a long held dream coming to reality. With the hard work and diligence of the First Nations' leadership, band officials and community members, this project has drawn on the expertise and support at the international, national and regional levels. Experience the many lessons learned by this dedicated New Brunswick First Nation community.

Aboriginal and Forestry Industry Relationships: *Co-Presenters, Mr. Harry Bombay, National Aboriginal Forestry Association and Mr. John Graham, Institute on Governance*

The possibilities of Aboriginal and Forest Industry relations are explored. Learn about the forest sector partnerships and agreements.

Saskatchewan Model — Working Together: *Co-Presenters, Ron Ray, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation; Ron Turkheim, Saskatchewan Northern Affairs; Les Cooke, Saskatchewan Forest Economic Development Team*

This keynote workshop provided insights and lessons learned on developing government and Aboriginal relations in the forestry sector, within the province of Saskatchewan.

Education and Employment Opportunities in the Forestry Sector: *Co-Presenters, Peter Birney, Progressive Planning; Mr. Steve Hoyt, Director, Maritime Forest Ranger School; Mr. Robin Whitney, Maritime Forest Ranger School and an Industry Representative, REPAP New Brunswick Inc.*

This workshop provided an overview of an independent pre-forest ranger training program for Aboriginal candidates who are considering attending the Maritime Forest Ranger School, including a presentation on the Maritime Forest Ranger School and from an Industry representative who spoke about the employment opportunities in the field.

Forest Management Plan Process: *Co-Presenters, Mr. Steve Ginnish and Ms. Gayle Sark, both from the Eel Ground First Nation*

The workshop described how the Eel Ground First Nation has developed and advanced their Natural Resource Management program and projects with great success. Partnership and joint initiatives have been created as a result. Mr. Ginnish will introduce projects such as forest renewal, value added, infrastructure, eco-tourism, and restoration and how these projects have lead to profound changes in how Eel Ground First Nation manages their lands.

Ms. Gayle Sark will highlight the Geographic Information System (GIS) utilized at Eel Ground First Nation and explained how their Forest Management Plan has been incorporated into this system.

Traditional Uses — Medicinal Plants: *Co-Presenters, Elder Charles Solomon and Donna Mae Perley*

Discover the traditional gathering practices and the medicinal uses for many of the native plants and foliage of New Brunswick. Learn traditional knowledge as shared by a highly respected Elder Mr. Solomon and from a gifted individual who has dedicated her life to preserving a very important segment of Aboriginal culture and traditions, Ms. Donna Mae Perley.